

La Belle France: It captures the imagination, it enriches the soul... so join Weekend Times for a brief armchair holiday across the Channel

THE IMPRESSIVE

Clarrie Grundy is so smitten with the Auvergne that she wants to forsake Ambridge. Libby Purves is hooked on Euro Disney. Terence Conran can't resist the markets. Then there's opera, boules, chateaux and — of course — food and wine. All in Weekend Times



THE IMPRESSED

The soft sound of shovel dislodging soil, the warmth of the sun on the shoulders, earth against the knees: this is *gardening*. Richard Goodman tells how a small patch of France stole his heart and changed his life. Weekend Times, page 1



THE IMPRESSIONIST

The grid of plots and beds, the rose arches and clematis towers, the water lily pool with its wisteria-clad Japanese bridge: this is Monet's garden. Francesca Greenoak tells how 15 years' work restored the artist's paradise. Weekend Times, page 13

President puts US jobs first

Bush team is split in Rio treaty battle

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

DEEP divisions were exposed within the Bush administration yesterday over whether the United States should sign a key treaty at the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro.

A leaked memorandum disclosed that William Reilly, head of the US Environmental Protection Agency, had issued a last-minute appeal to Washington to accept small changes to the biodiversity convention, so that the United States could sign it and international anger over President Bush's hardline stance could be defused. His request, however, was dismissed.

The convention protecting plant and animal species and their habitats is one of the summit's principal documents, but the administration announced a week ago that it would not sign it because its provisions could harm America's booming biotechnology industry and Washington could find itself paying huge Third World bills.

White House officials not only rejected Mr Reilly's plea, which was made on Wednesday night, but his confidential memo was leaked, leaving him in what would appear to

be a barely tenable position. Mr Bush was yesterday obliged to express his full support for Mr Reilly, who is America's chief negotiator at the Earth summit. He condemned the leak to *The New York Times* as "terribly offensive". In Rio, Mr Reilly issued a terse statement, saying it was "most unfortunate that someone within our government chose to leak information about these most important efforts that demanded diplomatic discretion".

Mr Bush insisted that he had a superb record on environmental matters and that he would go to the summit next week "on the offence, not defence. Because I will not sign a treaty that in my view throws too many Americans out of work. I refuse to accept that kind of criticism from what I consider some of the extremes in the environmental movement, internationally or domestically," he said.

In Rio Mr Reilly had already begun telling reporters on Thursday morning that there could be a compromise over the convention. He was then told by other journalists that his request had been dismissed by the White House, so he changed his remarks. "He led people to believe we were going to change our position. He is one who got himself way out on a limb," one administration official said yesterday.

Mr Reilly, former president of the World Wildlife Fund, has clashed repeatedly with the White House and other administration departments over the past year. He has lost almost every important battle as Mr Bush, in a presidential election year, has consistently defended the demands of business and industry before environmental concerns.

Mr Bush said yesterday that America had spent about \$800 billion (£444 billion) in the last decade on environmental improvements.

Couscous warning, page 10
Leading article, page 15

Exit Finney

The West End production of *Reflected Glory* is expected to close after Albert Finney refused to appear, saying he had not been paid for some of the nine weeks the play has been running. Page 2

The Times

Circulation of *The Times* rose in May to 388,196 copies a day, an increase of 1,938 over April. Figures for newspaper circulation in May show that sales of *The Times*' closest competitors fell over the same period. Sales of *The Independent* were 386,227, a drop of 3,296, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulation figures. *The Guardian* suffered a more severe drop, by 13,636 to 415,426.

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Lamont urges curb on centrists

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, seized on the Danish referendum result yesterday to urge a curbing of the centralist ambitions of the European Commission.

While he stopped short of advocating the "fresh start" in European treaty negotiations called for in the early-day motion backed by about 70 Conservative MPs, Mr Lamont signalled that their Euroscepticism extends all the way up the party. He insisted, in a speech to his Kingston-upon-Thames constituency party: "The decision

of the Danish people to reject the Maastricht treaty provides a timely reminder that there is nothing inevitable, or predetermined about the future development of the European Community."

Using the code words favoured by Euro rebels, Mr Lamont called for a Community believing in "free trade, not protection, competition, not over-regulation". He was strong in his support of John Major, saying: "The prime minister is quite right to give a commitment to continue with the ratification of the

Maastricht treaty. Our European partners intend to ratify the treaty and Britain would lose all influence in shaping events if we just walked away."

But he blamed the Danish referendum result on the European Commission overreaching itself, criticising "the seemingly endless and unquestioning pressure from Brussels always to extend the competence of the Community and to seek to tackle every problem at a European level and from the centre". He insisted, in a speech to his Kingston-upon-Thames constituency party: "The decision

Continued on page 18, col 1

did not go out of their way to deny reports circulating in recent weeks that the princess had approved proofs of her *Diana: Her True Story*. Mr Morton has since denied that he interviewed the princess, or that she had co-operated in the writing, or that she had read the text, almost the only area of the matter on which he and Buckingham Palace agree.

Mr Morton has interviewed the princess's family, friends and others, and says that his book is "straightforward old-fashioned journalism".

Palace spokesmen, embarrassed and embittered by the tide of alleged disclosures that began with a volume of cocktail-circuit gossip by Lady Colin Campbell, the self-styled socialite — a volume that has been *enjoying* healthy sales — have withdrawn their heads beneath the parapet, and are declining to make any comment on either book for fear that even a dental

might add dignity to what they see as a sordid commercial battle being played for increasingly large stakes.

Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, did his best to put a brave face on having been scooped by the *Mail*, describing yesterday's rival effort as "an excellent starter for our main course" and claiming that his own paper's disclosures would be yet tastier. "It is a story of a marriage which has collapsed, which has no future," Mr Neil said.

Geoffrey Dickens, Tory MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, was among several MPs who yesterday accused both papers of intolerable intrusion into the private lives of the prince and princess. "They should leave this lovely girl alone," he said.

The royal couple are expected to

Royal couple caught in book war crossfire

BY ALAN HAMILTON

BOOK wars have broken out between two rival Fleet Street newspapers, following a familiar battle plan and with the Prince and Princess of Wales caught in a hail of potentially lethal crossfire.

Tomorrow, *The Sunday Times* begins serialisation of a new biography of the princess by Andrew Morton, which a subtle and carefully orchestrated publicity campaign has dubiously built up into the publishing sensation of the year. The newspaper has paid an estimated £250,000 for the serial rights, and has spent almost as much again on press, television and poster advertising.

Yesterday, *The Daily Mail*, which

had shown interest in serialising the Morton book but was outbid by *The Sunday Times*, resorted to a classic

spelling tactic in an attempt to spike

the guns of the enemy. It found another book containing damaging personal allegations, and began serialisation two days ahead of *The Sunday Times*.

According to the *Mail*, the princess is alleged to have attempted suicide in 1986, driven to the gesture, it is claimed, by the emptiness of her marriage and by the prince's continuing friendship with another woman. The author of the book, which has not yet appeared but will be published in the United States, is Nicholas Davies, the former foreign editor of the *Daily Mirror*, who was a confidant of Robert Maxwell but was dismissed after accusations that he had been involved in arms dealing for the Israeli government. Neither Mr Davies nor the *Mail* claims to have interviewed the princess.

Now, indeed, does the rival camp, although Mr Morton's publishers

did not go out of their way to deny

reports circulating in recent weeks

that the princess had approved

proofs of her *Diana: Her True Story*.

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Sir Jeremy Morse

Bank jobs saved as Lloyds abandons £3.9bn takeover

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYDS Bank has pulled out of the £3.9 billion takeover battle for Midland Bank, saying that the deal had become too expensive. The surprise withdrawal has saved more than 20,000 jobs in the banking industry and 1,000 high street branches which Lloyds planned to close.

The move leaves the way clear for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to complete an unopposed takeover of Midland by the end of the month. The merger will create one of the biggest banks in

the world with assets of £145 billion and 3,300 offices in 68 countries, with its headquarters in London.

Lloyds withdrew its offer for Midland after a board meeting yesterday morning. The directors decided that the bank could not afford to increase its offer to at least \$20 per share, or £4.3 billion, in response to the Hongkong Bank, which raised its bid to 480p a share on Tuesday.

Lloyds' original offer was last month referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, unlike the bid by the Hongkong Bank, given the go-ahead by the European Commission. The board knew it must raise its offer to tempt Midland shareholders to reject the Hongkong bid and wait for the mergers commission decision in August.

On Thursday, however, it became clear to Sir Jeremy Morse, Lloyds' chairman, and Brian Pitman, the chief executive, that the bank could not afford the necessary increase when they looked at the figures with Barings, their merchant bank. Sir Jeremy said the bid had become too expensive for Lloyds' shareholders. "Most of the spoils of the merger would have gone to Midland's shareholders."

He added that Lloyds were also concerned about the effect of any preconditions that may have been imposed by the MMC, such as the disposal of branches and businesses, if it had cleared the bid.

Lloyds' offer was referred to the commission by Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, after the Office of Fair Trading voiced fears that the merger would reduce concentration in the small business market. The combined bank would have had a market share in the sector of more than 30 per cent.

The failure is a bitter blow to Sir Jeremy Morse, one of the most respected City bankers, who is due to retire next spring. It comes six years after he was frustrated in its attempt to take over Standard Chartered, the international banking group.

He said that he did not regret his decision to bid for Midland. "If you are trying to do something you regarded as very important but saw there was a less than even chance of success, you do not give it up," he said.

Sir Peter Walker, Midland's chairman, said: "I am delighted that this source of uncertainty has been removed. This is good news for our shareholders, customers and staff."

He added that Lloyds were

also concerned about the ef-

fects of the Maastricht treaty on

the banking industry.

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Laugh? I nearly suffered a major affective psychiatric disorder



WHAT is happiness? A loving companion, a healthy bank account and a good digestion? A holiday in the sun, a walk with the dog? Or is it a psychiatric disorder, characterised by particular facial expressions such as smiling and involuntary noises known as laughter?

Happiness is far too romantic a concept, says a psychologist at Liverpool University. Dr Richard Bentall has proposed that the condition be included in future editions of the major psychiatric diagnostic manuals under the new name "major affective disorder, pleasant type".

He says that happiness shares many of the characteristics of other psychiatric illnesses; it is relatively rare with a cluster of identifiable symptoms which often cause sufferers to become irrational. Happy people have trouble remembering

You don't have to be mad to be happy, but you probably are, according to Dr Richard Bentall.

Alison Roberts keeps a straight face

mildly miserable events and often overestimate their capabilities, says Dr Bentall, who describes himself as a happy person. "I am extremely disturbed in that respect," he said.

Writing in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* he says that laughing spontaneously at a joke is reactive happiness, followed by a "rapid remission of symptoms". Spontaneous and prolonged hilarity is endogenous happiness, or joy from within, less often followed by improvement.

People who experience high intensities of happiness often report high intensities of other emotions, suggesting that happiness may be relat-

ed to a "neurophysiological state of disinhibition". In other words, elation can seriously damage your health and joyful hedonism can be a life-threatening condition.

With furrowed brow and tongue in cheek he says that there is clinical evidence of a link between happiness and bodily indulgence. Julius Caesar supposedly asked for the company of fat men because they were happy and good fun, after all.

Quite what Basil Fawlty, John Cleese's fictional and terminally unhappy hotelier, might have made of Dr Bentall's conclusions is uncertain. "Fun?" he once remarked, with

a glance at Sybil. "Oh yes I remember fun..."

Dr Bentall, however, is only half joking. Happiness could be classified as a psychiatric disorder if doctors were interested enough. "We do not study happiness because we actually like to be happy. Psychiatrists make value judgments about what is mental illness. People say that those with psychiatric disorders are irrational. Actually there is very good evidence that people who are happy are less rational than those who are depressed.

"It is very difficult to define psychiatric disorders and to say whether someone is ill or not. People assume that mental illness is a matter of fact and a matter of science. My point is that it involves moral judgments. Happiness could be a disorder if we decided that it ought

to be although I am not seriously suggesting that we should." Dr Bentall said that he did not expect his report to be taken seriously, because happy people would not seek treatment.

Experimental work carried out at Liverpool University shows that people with depression are much more realistic about their lives and capabilities. "Normal people overestimate the amount of control they have over events. Depressed people are better in many ways at judging what other people think of them. In some senses happy people delude themselves into thinking that the world is actually a nicer place than it really is," said Dr Bentall.

The epidemiology of happiness is another neglected area. It may be catching — clearly no laughing matter.



Teaching hospitals could survive review

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

LONDON teaching hospitals might survive in spite of the widespread expectation that the over-supply of facilities in the capital will force one or more of them to close. An enquiry into the future of London's health service, chaired by Sir Bernard Tomlinson, has no plans to recommend a closure to ministers.

Closure of one or more teaching hospitals has been seen as essential to end over-provision. Yesterday, two hospital groups, the Charing Cross and University College,

announced plans to shut beds and cut hundreds of jobs because they have lost out in the competition for patients under the new NHS market.

But members of the enquiry team, set up by the government last October, believe that wholesale closure of a big hospital could be averted by judicious pruning of weaker departments in all of them. A recommendation to shut all the services on one site and sell it is "not likely," sources said.

Instead, the enquiry's work is focusing on how to secure the good departments in each hospital, possibly by moving them to neighbouring hospitals, while shedding others. Space freed by such moves might be sold or leased.

The attraction of this solution is that it would provide a slimmer routine service for the local population, while preserving the specialist departments for which London has an international reputation.

The move would also minimise the political fallout associated with a wholesale closure. Members of the enquiry team are said to be acutely aware of the need to carry politicians and doctors with them.

The enquiry has reached no firm conclusions and opinion could change, sources stressed. The health department yesterday denied a report that Sir Bernard had been asked to complete his work two months early.

Rent enquiry pledged

MORE than a million statutory tenants, whose rents are set by government rent officers, are to have all rent increases during the past four years investigated by the government (Rachel Kelly and Arthur Leather write).

Tony Baldry, junior environment minister, told MPs yesterday in a Commons debate on tenants' rights that the government would honour its pledge to look at the position of statutory tenants. Some tenants protected by



Finney: announced on radio his decision to quit over pay dispute

Curtains for play as Finney exits

BY SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Vaudeville Theatre in the West End closed last night because Albert Finney, the star of its current show, refused to appear, claiming he was owed payment by the producers for some of the nine weeks the play had run.

Reflected Glory, Ronald Harwood's play about a dramatist who writes a play about his litigious brother, is not to be performed tonight, and is expected to close.

In a statement issued 45 minutes before the curtain was due to go up, Mark Furth, the producer, said: "Due to universally bad business in the West End the decision has been reluctantly

made to pull the show out further losses."

Mr Finney had already announced on a radio show yesterday morning that he was leaving. "I discovered that I have not been paid for some time and have decided to withdraw my services," he said on Michael Parkinson's LBC programme.

Mr Finney's salary is not widely known, but he could be expected to be paid £3,000 a week plus 10 per cent of box office. Laurence Evans, his agent, claimed he had been paid some but not all of what he was owed. Mr Finney had given Mr Furth until 5.30 on Thursday night to pay him what he was owed, but he had failed to do so. "As far as Albert is concerned, it's all over," said Mr Evans.

Mr Finney's decision may have pre-empted an inevitable early end for a play by a leading British playwright which had had generally good reviews. The closure could herald more in the coming days and weeks. A spokeswoman for Mr Furth said the play had had audiences of as little as 30 per cent. Many plays are struggling to survive on barely 20 per cent in one of the worst post-war slumps the West End has experienced.

Coach belts wanted

A renewed call was made yesterday for the compulsory wearing of seat belts on buses and coaches in the wake of the coach crash in co. Antrim on Thursday evening, in which five people were killed and 41 injured. The crash happened near Carrickfergus when the vehicle, which was on an outing organised by a local branch of Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, careered out of control after its brakes had apparently failed. Yesterday a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Musgrave Park Hospital in Belfast said that the risk of serious injury and death in crashes of this kind could be considerably reduced if seat belts were made compulsory.

John Halliday said that seat belts would not only prevent people being flung forward inside vehicles, but also prevent them being thrown out onto the road.

Convict escapes in taxi

Police were last night searching for a prisoner who escaped from custody on his way to court to face charges for armed robbery committed during an earlier escape. Michael Johnson, 25, was on his way from Bullingdon prison near Bicester, Oxfordshire, to Reading magistrates' court when he vanished. Johnson is thought to have produced a knife, grabbed the taxi taking him to court and driven off taking a prison officer with him. The officer was later found safe and the car discovered abandoned in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Johnson escaped from Maidstone prison, Kent, last year after being sentenced to seven and a half years for offences involving firearms, theft and burglary.

Jaguar murder appeal

Alastair Bell, right, whose wife Penny was found murdered in a west London car park a year ago today issued a fresh appeal for witnesses to come forward. Police believe that up to 50 people were in a leisure centre car park at Gurnell Grove, Greenford, on the morning she died. Mrs Bell, a mother of two, was stabbed 50 times as she sat in her Jaguar XJS. Mr Bell said: "Someone must know something."



STV judgment reserved

Lord Milligan has reserved his judgment in the £600,000 defamation action brought by Antony Gecas against Scottish Television following the screening of the documentary *Crimes of War*. The judge has heard a total of 17 days of evidence in the case, which opened in Lithuania in February and then continued before the Court of Session in Edinburgh. Lord Milligan will have to read over 2,000 pages in 17 volumes of recorded evidence and consider a week's summing up by counsel before issuing his written judgment, which is not expected for at least two months. Mr Gecas, 76, a retired mining engineer now living in Edinburgh, denied allegations in the documentary that he took part in the massacre of thousands of civilians during the second world war.

UK beaches 'stable'

Standards of bathing water at Britain's beaches had remained relatively stable over the past three years, the European Commission said in its annual survey, published yesterday. The Commission, which relies on national monitoring agencies for its report, said that a slight decrease in the quality of Britain's beaches in 1991 was probably due to poor weather. On its map of Britain the Commission marked red "danger" boxes on a cluster of beaches in the North West, from Sefton to Fleetwood, and including Blackpool. The North Wales coast also fared badly as did Cleethorpes in Humberside and the Southwick and South Lancing beaches near Brighton.

husband who no longer cares. The Princess of Wales' friends and family wanted the world to know the truth... End the speculation, read their words — only in The Sunday Times tomorrow

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B&Q

Mellor drops heritage list to stop flood of art sales

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Mellor, the national heritage secretary, acted yesterday to stop the rush by stately home owners to sell their assets. He announced that he had abandoned his predecessor's proposal to establish a list of vital works that can never go abroad.

But the minister was unable to guarantee the estimated £20 million needed for the government to step in and buy the items threatened with export. The only likely source of funds will be from the national lottery, which is not due to start until 1994.

"Listing would diminish the rights of owners to dispose of their property as they saw fit," the minister said. "Prohibiting the export of outstanding heritage objects would distort market values."

Ray O'Shea, president of the Antique Dealers' Association, said: "We are delighted at his decision, and that he has addressed the issue so quickly. It will remove all the uncertainty in the trade."

Charles Allsopp, chairman of Christie's, said Mr Mellor's announcement would "remove the anxiety felt by owners of major works of art that their possessions could have been arbitrarily and drastically reduced in value by being listed". Lord Shelburne, president of the Historic Houses Association, said: "When owners have the misfortune of having to sell chattels to pay for upkeep of their properties, it would have been self-defeating if the capital receipts had been halved."

Tim Renton, the former arts minister, had caused panic among the heritage world and anger among owners last December by announcing his plan to consider the listing as a way to stop the flood of valuable items leaving the country.

The view in the art world was that the system set up by the Waverley Committee in the 1950s was still workable. Here, works are assessed for their aesthetic and historic importance and then placed under temporary export bans, giving museums a chance to match the selling price. Members of the art world said that the difficulty was that because museum grants had been frozen at paltry levels since 1985, museums were unable to take an active part in the system. The National Gallery's grant is £2.75 million while the British Museum receives £1.4 million.

This spring, Christie's the auctioneers enjoyed its best Old Master consignment in a decade as owners scrambled to pre-empt the list by selling.

Lord Cholmondeley's Holbein painting, *Lady with a Sparrow*, was bought for the nation for £20 million after the combining of funds from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the National Art Collections Fund and the National Gallery.

Canaleto's massive view of the Horse Guards parade in London was bought for £10 million by the composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, who had acted when he realised that the Tate Gallery was in no position to buy.

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Submarine officer guilty of negligence

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A ROYAL Navy trainee commander whose submarine sank a fishing trawler received a severe reprimand at his court martial yesterday after being found guilty of three out of six charges of negligence.

Lieutenant Commander Peter McDonnell will have the reprimand on his record for five years, which could affect his chances of further promotion. Christine Russell, whose husband James, 36, was one of four men killed in the incident in the Firth of Forth in November 1990, said Lt Cdr McDonnell had been made a scapegoat.

Mrs Russell, from Carradale, Strathclyde, said: "I think others as well as Peter McDonnell should have been in the dock. It's not fair that he's the only one. He has been made the scapegoat."

There were two more senior officers on board HMS *Trent* when the submarine snagged the nets of the trawler *Antares*: the trainee commander's course teacher and the submarine captain. However, the court martial was

told that Lt Cdr McDonnell had been in charge of the submarine when the incident happened.

Last night, a navy spokesman said that Admiral Sir Jock Slater, Commander-in-Chief Fleet, had no plans to take disciplinary action against other individuals.

Lt Cdr McDonnell, 33, who is now executive officer of another nuclear-powered submarine, HMS *Turbulence*, said in a statement after the court martial in Devonport: "I am very relieved that my court martial is finally over. It has been hanging over me like a black cloud for the last 18 months since that dreadful night."

The statement, read by Lt Cdr Jonathan Hattersley, his defence representative, said: "I think the families of those tragically lost know how I feel about it. I would just like to say my thoughts are with them at this particular time. It has also considerably affected my own family. I hope the strain on all of us will now begin to lift."

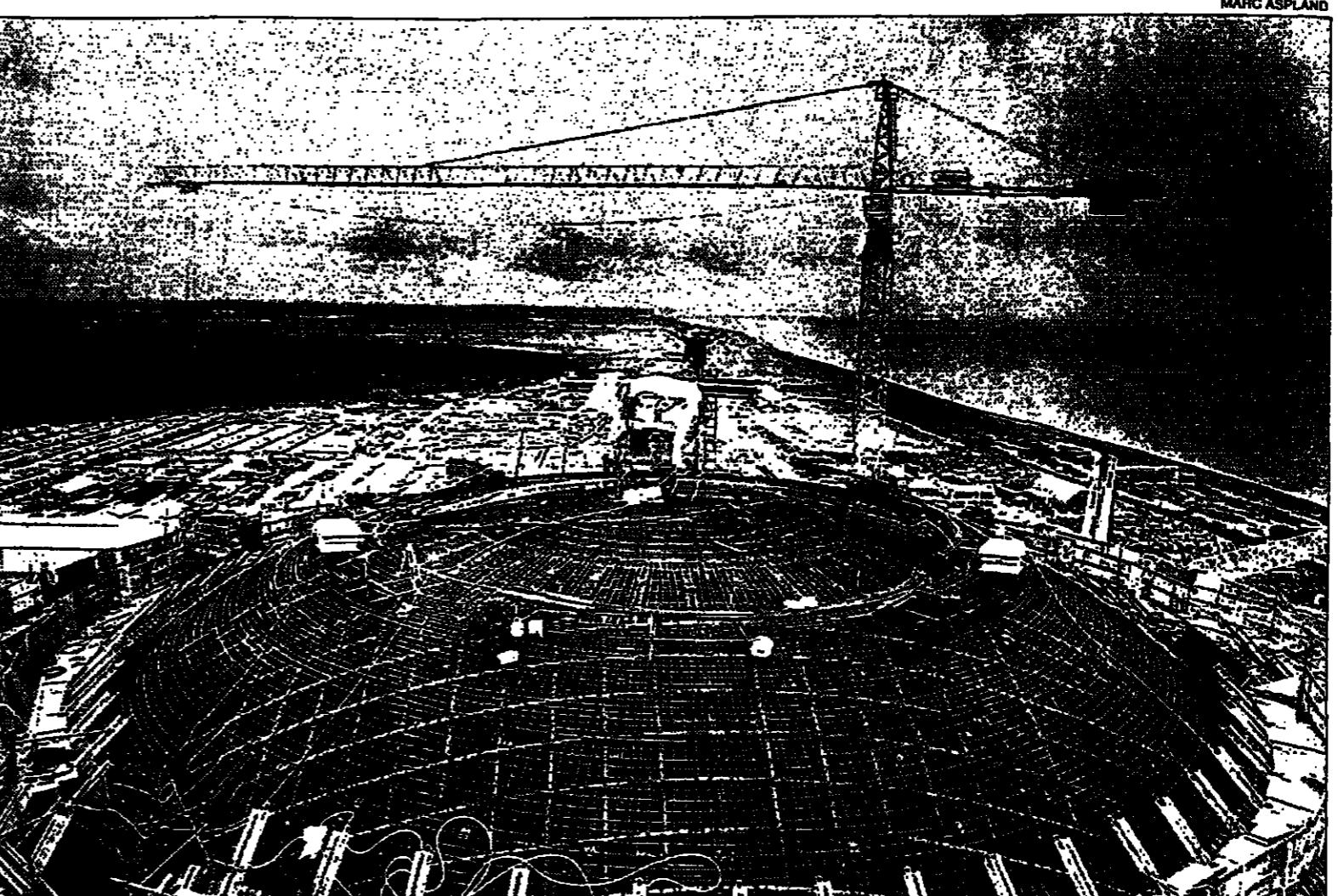
George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock

and Doon Valley, said the proceedings were a whitewash. He intends to demand a Commons statement from Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, on Monday.

Mr Rifkind, he said, should explain why no action had been taken against the senior officers in overall charge of the submarine and why Lt Cdr McDonnell was allowed to be in sole command at the time.

The court martial was ordered after the Scottish prosecuting authorities ruled against pressing charges of manslaughter. A Scottish fatal accident enquiry concluded there had been human error.

Yesterday, on the third day of the court martial, Lt Cdr McDonnell was convicted of failing to realise how close the *Antares* was to his submarine and allowing the trawler to stay on a collision course for 18 minutes without verifying its range. He was also found guilty of being unaware of the presence of a second trawler, the *Heroine*. He was cleared of three other charges of negligence over safety drills.



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Clarke faces tough decision if police lose certificate

Derbyshire police are likely to lose their efficiency certificate. Stewart Tendler explains what that would mean and questions the way efficiency is measured

WHEN inspectors of constabulary were first mooted in 1856, town halls and county councils were in uproar at the prospect of central control of their new police forces and the "degradation" of an inspection. Their fears were well-founded: the first inspections were failed by seven county forces, a number of big borough forces such as Stockport and Warrington and more than half of the 86 medium-sized borough forces.

Now, more than 100 years later, Derbyshire police expect to be told in the next few days that they have become the first modern force to join that band and be denied a certificate of efficiency. If Geoffrey Dear, the inspector for the Midlands forces, fails to recommend the certificate as they predict, the force would stand to lose Home Office grants of over £30 million a year equal to 51 per cent of its budget and pitch Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, into an unprecedented dispute.

In his 1990 report, Mr Dear said that the force did not meet standards of efficiency and said that police authority controls on expenditure restricted flexibility. There was no building plan despite the poor state of property and the force was



Dear: criticised the force in two reports

on the brink of losing its certificate. His interim report last September warned of underfunding and continued bureaucratic delays by the police authority, disintegrating morale and poor police statistics.

If the force loses its certificate, the home secretary has three choices: He could leave the already hard-pressed county to find the cash itself for 1993-4. He could amalgamate the force with one of its neighbours — expensive, because officers would have to be made redundant and spare premises sold.

Or he could set up a detailed enquiry into the way Derbyshire police are run, possibly linked to government plans to review the future of Derbyshire as a county. There are also Home Office suggestions that Mr Clarke will want to help rather than penalise the force. He may set a three or five-year plan for the force highlighting new efficiency targets and ask the inspectorate to continue close monitoring.

But what is efficiency and can the inspectorate measure it accurately? What real controls can the Home Office have over an errant force? Mr Dear's report spotlights not only Derbyshire but the inspectorate and its methods.

The inspectorate is made up of former chief constables led by Sir John Woodcock. It assesses whether a force is efficient using "professional judgment", and analysis that measures each force against other forces of comparable size, according to population, crime rate, budgets and manpower.

The force and the county claim that the 1,820-officer Derbyshire force has improved, but the police expect the new report to conclude that the way the Labour-controlled police authority has allegedly restricted the force's growth has damaged its efficiency.

Ousted Muslims pray for judgment

BY DAVID YOUNG

TORRENTIAL rain yesterday failed to dampen the ardour of the two factions that are arguing over control of the mosque built for the 15,000-strong Muslim community in Luton, Bedfordshire.

The High Court is to sit in three weeks to hear the arguments that have split the community and led to one group praying in the mosque while the other lays prayer mats in the car park — weather permitting — under the eyes of the police.

The group led by the trustees, which has run the mosque since raising £800,000 to build it in 1986, has been ousted by rebels seeking a system of elections every two years.

The mosque has been under police surveillance for the past three weeks. It stands in Westbourne Road in the

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on the outside

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Thatcher and former chancellors head list of 21 new life peers

JOHN Major embarked on his honours spree yesterday with the creation of 21 new life peers, four knights, two privy counsellors and one dame. Next week he will follow this with the announcement of at least a further ten life peerages and the Queen's birthday honours list.

If they turn up regularly, the new recruits should inject extra vigour into the upper House, not least in debates on closer European unity.

At the top of Mr Major's dissolution honours list yesterday were life peerages for Margaret Thatcher and three former chancellors of the exchequer from both main parties, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson and Denis Healey.

The prime minister showed himself to be a traditionalist by following the convention of offering life peerages to all the former cabinet ministers who left the Commons at the general election. Although Mrs Thatcher rejected a hereditary title, Downing Street indicated that Mr Major did not object to hereditary titles and would not rule out the possibility of another title for the former prime minister in the future. She had been informed that she was entitled to the female equivalent of a hereditary earldom.

Surprise names on the dissolution honours list were Harry Ewing, the veteran Scottish MP who had never held a post higher than junior minister at the Scottish Office in the last Labour government, and Julian Amery, the clubbable former Tory MP for Brighton Pavilion. Mr

New recruits are expected to inject fresh vigour into the Lords, particularly during EC debates — provided they bother to turn up regularly. Sheila Gunn writes

Ewing is understood to have given a commitment to Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Labour peers, to be a regular attendee.

The other former Conservative cabinet ministers going to the Lords are Nicholas Ridley, Cecil Parkinson, Norman Tebbit, John Moore, Sir Ian Gilmour, George Younger and Peter Walker. The new Tory intake is split fairly evenly into camps for and against the European Community and into "them and us" categories in their relationship with Mrs Thatcher.

The inclusion of Mr Younger, chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland and a former Thatcher confidant, caused some surprise as he will, in any case, inherit a viscountcy on the death of his

elderly father, Bernard Weatherill, the retired Commons speaker, is made a life peer but is expected to sit on the independent benches.

Apart from Mr Healey and

Mr Ewing, Labour's benches in the Lords will gain the former home secretary Merlyn Rees, the former sports and "weather" minister Denis Howell, the former solicitor general Peter Archer and the veteran campaigner for the disabled, Jack Ashley, who is himself dead.

As disclosed in *The Times*, David Owen, the former Labour foreign secretary and a founder of the SDP, was nominated personally for a peerage by Mr Major, the man he supported in the closing days of the last election. Once in the Lords, Dr Owen will have to choose whether to sit with the independent peers or the small SDP rump.

Dafydd Elis Thomas becomes Plaid Cymru's first peer in spite of the party's commitment to abolition of the Lords. A government source said Mr Major had offered the Welsh nationalist party a peerage, and it was taken up. Mr Thomas was the party's president from 1984 until last year.

The Liberal Democrats gain one peer, Geraint Howells, who lost his seat to Plaid Cymru in the election.

In addition, there are lighthoods as consolation prizes for three Tory MPs who lost their seats at the last election and are not expected to return: David Trippier, the former environment minister and deputy chairman of the Tory party; Anthony Beaumont-Dark, renowned throughout the media for his readiness to express an instant opinion on almost anything; and Neil Thorne. Harold Walker, a Labour MP and a deputy speaker in the last Parliament, also becomes a knight.

Francis Maude, the former financial secretary to the Treasury who hopes to return to the Commons, and the former whip Robert Boscowen are both made privy counsellors.

The former Labour health minister and deputy speaker in the Lords, Lady Serota, becomes a DBE. She has been influential in building up the impressive committee system in the upper House for scrutinising EC directives.

"I do know a great deal about public affairs. I know a great many people involved in Parliament and much about the institutions of government. Perhaps something in public relations might suit me."

In the meantime, the re-settlement allowance he received will save him from immediate financial embarrassment. Between job interviews, he plans to start reading a history of the Hundred Years War. For him, one day in politics, April 9, was much longer than that.

By TIM JONES

Voters leave Grist on the outside

WHILE some portly men and women of a certain age will today be checking their measurements to ensure that the ermine fits, it is not a question that will concern Ian Grist.

Instead, the man who was for 18 years a Conservative MP in Cardiff will be metaphorically tramping the city streets in search of a job. Last week Mr Grist, who as a junior minister in the Welsh Office had a whiff of high office, registered as unemployed and signed up at the local employment office.

His world of committees, lobby bells, surgeries and high level talks fell apart on April 9 when he lost his seat to a Labour opponent. He said yesterday: "It was never a very safe seat. It was more of a trembling branch and eventually fell off."

Mr Grist, 53, who has just returned from a holiday in California with his wife, the full time party agent in his former constituency, says he is not embarrassed by his changed circumstances. "What is there to be bitter about. I always knew I could lose my seat virtually overnight."

His star began to wane

Diary, page 14

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Denis Healey: the former chancellor will join Tory counterparts in the Lords

Arrivals hope to star with Garter

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WHETHER Margaret Thatcher is styled Baroness Thatcher of Finchley, Grantham, Bruges or the Falklands is a matter she must sort out with Sir Colin Cole, Garter King of Arms, at the College of Arms, in Blackfriars. Agreeing a title does not always run smoothly.

Technically, Garter and the Lord Lyon, his Scottish equivalent, can canvass the views of the local burghers before approving use of a place name, delaying entry to the Lords.

Mrs Thatcher's predecessor, James Callaghan, former Cardiff MP, had trouble persuading Garter that he should take the title Lord Callaghan of Cardiff. To give a peer the handle of a capital city is seen as a rare honour. Although some new peers admit to feeling intimidated in Garter's presence, the former Labour prime minister apparently made clear that he would consider no other city.

Citizens of the chosen place can object. Len Murray had a spot of bother in becoming "Murray of Epping Forest". Choosing an uninhabited island or a tiny village speeds entry to the Lords, as in the case of the Scottish law lord, Lord Morton of Shuna, and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern. The Tory whiz Baroness Trumpington ruffled a few feathers in a Cambridge suburb when, as Jean Barker, former mayor of Cambridge, she took his name as her title.

Some new peers confuse former Commons colleagues by abandoning well-known surnames, such as Sir Hum-

phrey Atkins, now Lord Colnbrook, and Nicholas Edwards (Lord Crickhowell).

The tactic of the former Labour minister Cledwyn Hughes of adopting his Christian name to become Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos has enhanced his status as doyen of the Lords. Garter is unlikely to agree to a Lord Cecil (Parkinson) or a Lord Jack (Ashley), but those who might consider taking Lord Cledwyn's course are three new Welsh peers with fairly common surnames, Merlyn Rees, Geraint Howells and Dafydd Elis Thomas.

One option for Mrs Thatcher is to take Lord George-Brown's example and opt for Lady Margaret Thatcher. However, a Lords source predicted "trouble getting it past Garter". The favourite for the former prime minister's title remains Baroness Thatcher of Finchley.



Parkinson: off to the College of Arms

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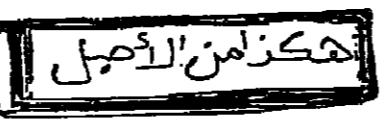
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Storm clouds gather over plan to annex Brontë heritage

LIFE for the Brontë Society today is as dark and stormy as anything the literary sisters might have written 150 years ago. Members gather this afternoon to elect eight new members of their ruling council in a ballot that is the culmination of an acrimonious two-year power struggle.

The society is divided over plans to build a new office block and visitor centre to cope with the 200,000 who annually pass through Haworth Parsonage near Keighley in West Yorkshire, where Charlotte, Emily and Anne once lived.

Rebels who opposed the council's original plans, accusing it of failing to consult the membership, hope to seize power. They won a toe-hold last year and victory at today's annual meeting would mean overall control.

The old guard fears that a mass exodus will take place if the rebels win. Around 300 members are expected at the meeting at Haworth Methodist Sunday school where the three sisters once taught.

On top of all this has come the news that a ruined farmhouse high on the moors above the parsonage and believed by many to be the model for *Wuthering Heights* is in danger of collapse. Top Withens was abandoned in the 1920s and

Heathcliff would have felt quite at home in today's Brontë Society, Paul Wilkinson reports

became derelict long before it found a new role as part of the Brontë heritage trail, but Yorkshire Water, its owner, now says its walls are crumbling and could fall in a high wind.

The dispute has reached such acrimonious proportions that the rebels often communicate with the society through lawyers while the old guard suspects them of feminist, anti-male, motives.

Seven of their eight candidates are women. Their leader is Chris Sumner, who resigned her post as vice-chairman over the council's plans.

The irony is that the £750,000 extension, first mooted in 1990, is unlikely to be built. The anonymous donor withdrew when the dispute became heated.

The size of the extension to the grade I listed building upset members who feared the parsonage would appear a mere annexe.

They countered with a proposal for an underground development, but outraged the council by obtaining

planning permission without consultation. The dispute boiled over last year when the annual report was rejected amid heated exchanges and the chairman's resignation.

Arthur Pollard was elected on a peace-making ticket and introduced several reforms, but resigned in March when they failed to gain enough support. He has since been persuaded to stay on, but is regarded by the rebels as a supporter of the old guard and his seat will be contested today.

In a letter to 3,400 members worldwide, he said he was saddened by the division that persisted despite his efforts at reconciliation.

"The future of the society is at stake and you, the members, must decide," he told them.

Meanwhile, the impending fate of Top Withens is a pressing priority for the society. The ruined farmhouse has had its grade II listed status removed and is in danger of crumbling away.

The ruins, about two miles from the Brontë family home, lie on the Brontë heritage trail and are visited by tourists from all over the world, despite the fact that there is little hard evidence to connect the building to *Wuthering Heights*.

Now its owner, Yorkshire Water, has been told the stonework is dangerous. One wall is moving so much on its foundations that it could be blown over by a high wind.

The environment department removed its listing last November because of its tenuous connection with the Brontë saga. That decision has distressed the Brontë Society, mainly because it was not consulted.

"It is very sad that some civil servant did not think to ask our opinion," Mr Pollard said. "We only found out about it afterwards. I know we have no legal rights, but we are certainly a very interested party. We are very keen to ensure that anything with connections to the Brontës is preserved."

He is awaiting approaches from Yorkshire Water on its proposals for preserving Top Withens. The company admitted yesterday that at one point total demolition had been considered, but that option had been rejected. The possibilities of partial demolition and rebuild-



Open to question: Top Withens, the farmhouse linked to Wuthering Heights



Society favourite: Emily, painted by her brother Patrick Branwell Brontë, in the 1830s

Cash shortfall hits clergy stipends

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SOME Church of England dioceses could run out of money in the next few years and be unable to pay clergy stipends, according to a report published yesterday.

Its author, the Rev Robert van de Weyer, chairman of Cambridge Historic Churches Trust, calls for a return to local people being directly responsible for stipends as well as for buildings.

Writing in the summer edition of the *Historic Churches Review*, he predicts a "spiral of defaulter on parish quotas, the sum levied on parishes to go towards stipends. Already many small parishes with large buildings to maintain are delaying indefinitely vital repairs so as to meet their quotas, he says. "It is not entirely fanciful to anticipate some dioceses going bust over the next few years, unable to pay clergy stipends," he says.



Sykes: seeking ways to meet church costs

Earlier this week, Norwich diocese gave warning of a cash shortage because of some parishes' failure to pay their share, and a reduction in contributions to the diocesan budget from the Church Commissioners. The diocese said that it might face a deficit of £400,000 over two years. Other dioceses, such as Lincoln, have reduced clergy.

The annual report of the Church Commissioners, to be published soon, is expected to warn of further reductions in the money that can be used to pay clergy stipends from the church's historic resources. This will increase further the burden on parishes. The shortfall has been caused by the recession and the continuing increase in retired clergy, whose pensions are paid entirely by the commissioners.

Mr van de Weyer has been working with the Bishop of Ely, the Rt Rev Stephen Sykes, to find a way to finance church repairs and clergy stipends. In the *Review*, published by the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, Mr van de Weyer says that the good repair of most churches is "one of the triumphs of our national culture".

The trust, a charity founded to help to finance church repairs and whose chairman is the Duke of Grafton, received a record number of applications last year. It was able to help 389 of the 926 churches that requested aid.

Visitors to sue over jail search

Two people who were strip-searched on a prison visit can sue the home secretary, a judge ruled at Liverpool County Court. Judge Marshall Evans, QC, said that searching visitors was unlawful "if the prison officers acted irrationally".

Natalie Bayliss, 22, and Brian Barton, 21, of Stockbridge village, Merseyside, are claiming damages for false imprisonment and assault while visiting an inmate of Frankland Prison, Durham, in 1988. The case will be heard in November.

Whitty bailed

Larry Whitty, Labour party general secretary, was remanded on unconditional bail until July 8 by Bow Street magistrates after he denied assaulting a policeman and driving through a red light in London on the night of the general election.

Crash award

A boy brain-damaged in a crash when he was eight was awarded £715,000 agreed damages in a structured settlement at the High Court. Michael McCarthy, 16, of Hodnet, Shropshire, was in a car that collided with a lorry.

Barged out

Boats were banned from the Caen Hill flight of locks in Devizes, Wiltshire, until water levels rise on the 87-mile Kennet and Avon Canal.

Sculpture unites 50 nations

BY PAUL WILKINSON

STONE from a Pennine beauty spot is to form the British element of a sculpture made of material from 50 countries that have links with Switzerland.

The rock from Hardcastle Crags, near Hebden Bridge in West Yorkshire, will be handed over today by the National Trust. The area, with its steep valley and rocky outcrops, is known locally as Little Switzerland. The stone will be accepted by Eduard Jaun, the Swiss consul.

The sculpture was conceived by the Swiss tourist board to emphasise the country's links with many places around the world. It identified about 160 locations that have Switzerland in their names, usually because of their similarity to Alpine scenery.

The sculpture, *The Balance of Things*, by George Steinmann, will be erected in September near the Bern houses of parliament. It consists of five groups of rock, each representing a continent, on a bed of gravel.

Hardcastle Crags' connection with Switzerland was emphasised in 1948 when a Swiss professor working in Leeds was struck by the area's similarity to Reutte, where the Swiss confederation was founded in 1291. As president of the Yorkshire Swiss Society he organised an annual picnic.

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Iranians tire of piety and punishment

Economic ills beset Khomeini's heirs

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, AND HAZIR TEIMOURIAN

THE eastern city of Mashhad, under tight security after several days of rioting and destruction, symbolises the worst economic and social difficulties the Iranian regime has faced since the death of Ayatollah Khomeini three years ago.

Ayatollah Yazdi, the regime's chief judge, has been dispatched to mete out justice. At least 300 people have been arrested, numerous government buildings are damaged, and the city is under the control of the army's 5th Nasr Division, moved in from the Afghan border.

Obviously, those involved in the sixth of a series of anti-government protests across the country have been branded the "corrupt of the Earth", a particularly heinous crime under the Islamic regime that in the past would have led to almost certain execution. But things are not quite that simple any longer for President Rafsanjani, Khomeini's successor, who is struggling against growing accusations that 13 years of the Islamic revolution have left people worse off.

The wave of executions of young people after Khomeini took power has not been forgotten, and the regime must offer more than piety and punishment to its rapidly expanding population. Besides, the protests in Mashhad and the industrial city of Arak are rooted in real economic hardship which has precious little to do with piety or the lack of it.

According to one estimate, Iranians' standard of living is now 50 per cent lower in real terms than when Khomeini came to power. The population is increasing at the rate of 1.8 million a year. The city of Mashhad itself has swollen from 800,000 ten years ago to 2.5 million today, boosted by the large influx of refugees from Afghanistan.

Lebanese await next raid

Villagers fear that Israel will invade, writes Richard Beeston from Qallawayah

SHAIKH Ali al-Amin listened intently to the growing clatter of helicopter rotor blades approaching his hilltop village before his face relaxed into a confident smile. "Not Cobra," he said, shaking his turbaned head and reassuring his guests that they were not about to be caught up in Israel's latest air attack in southern Lebanon.

Like other villagers, living within sight and artillery range of the Israeli border security zone, recognising the difference between a United Nations troop transporter and an Israeli Cobra helicopter gunship has become second nature to the Shia Muslim cleric over the past two weeks as Israeli aircraft have gone into action 11 times against suspected guerrilla targets.

"It is just as it was ten years ago before the Israelis invaded Lebanon, only last time they were fighting the Palestinians and this time it is Hezbollah," said Sheikh al-Amin, who, like many, fears this escalation could be the prelude to another incursion.

"We are living in a big prison," said Kamel Jaffar, the mufti of Froum, a hamlet located less than a mile from the security zone. "When Hezbollah launch an operation against the Israelis, they do not retaliate against the guerrillas, who have already disappeared, but against us."

To control the situation, America and Arab countries this week intervened to end the fit-for-fat raids. However, none of the combatants has shown any signs of losing interest.

Nevertheless, it is still possible that the two sides can be brought back from an all-out confrontation, particularly if further diplomatic pressure is brought to bear on Syria to limit Hezbollah's activities, and if Israel's right-wing government reflects on the implications of a military enterprise before the elections later this month.

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Up to 15 million are unemployed, while 75 per cent of people under the age of 25 are under-employed. Seventy-five per cent of the population lives in absolute poverty, says *The Wall Street Journal*, earning about \$1 (56p) a day. Inflation is running at about 40 per cent.

Politically, however, President Rafsanjani has made some progress. The president has brought Ayatollah Khomeini, his principal rival and the formal spiritual and temporal leader of the republic, under control and tamed the Majlis (parliament) by barring most of the former radical deputies from standing in last April's elections. He has also ended Iran's participation in hostage-taking in Lebanon, making it possible, for example, for the European Community to sign an economic co-operation agreement with his government.

However, the president seems to lack the political will to implement the economic reforms recommended by the International Monetary Fund. In his last budget he increased subsidies for staple foods and services to \$9 billion and his attempts to reduce the 20-fold discrepancy between the official and free-market values of Iran's currency have not been decisive. A fall in oil revenues last year has pushed the foreign debt to about \$17 billion.

Nor has there been an appreciable liberalisation of Iranian society. Secret execu-

tions of political dissidents continue, particularly in the western Kurdish region, and press and broadcasting are heavily censored. Iran also remains implicated in international terrorism. Swiss diplomats in Tehran have in recent weeks been harassed by the security forces in order to prevent the extradition to France of an Iranian wanted for the murder in Paris of Shahpour Bakhtiar, the former prime minister.

To compound his economic woes, President Rafsanjani has also embarked on a colossal programme of weapons purchases to make Iran a regional superpower once more. These are estimated to include 2,500 tanks, nearly 600 combat aircraft, 2,000 missiles and a number of submarines.

The programme is clearly aimed at intimidating the Gulf states into setting oil price and production levels to suit Iran. However, it is more likely to drive the shahids further under America's military wing.

THE ruling Liberal Democratic Party in Japan yesterday came one step closer to forcing through parliament a controversial bill designed to allow Japanese troops to be sent overseas for the first time since the second world war as part of UN-led peacekeeping forces.

Tokyo presses on with troops bill

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

THE ruling Liberal Democratic Party in Japan yesterday came one step closer to forcing through parliament a controversial bill designed to allow Japanese troops to be sent overseas for the first time since the second world war as part of UN-led peacekeeping forces.

After almost 18 months of deliberations between the LDP and the socialist and communist parties, which oppose the bill on the ground that it violates Japan's pacifist postwar constitution, a parliamentary peacekeeping operations committee voted yesterday to send the legislation to a vote in the upper house, the penultimate step to making it law.

The legislation was conceived at the height of the Gulf conflict by a government stung by foreign criticism that its response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was belated and insufficient. The bill has since made such tortuous progress and been so frequently diluted, that it has come to symbolise the question of just how far Japan is willing to go to honour pledges to play a role in international affairs commensurate with its economic might.

A vote in the opposition-controlled upper house, which had been due yesterday, was likely to be postponed until next week. Having secured the support of two minority opposition parties, the Komei party and the Democratic Socialist party, the LDP is expected to prevail but not before eruptions of rowdy behaviour from socialist MPs, who have threatened to use physical force as a last resort to block passage of the bill.

The LDP has paid dearly to boost its numerical strength in the upper house. Compromises over the content of the bill have caused a retreat from the original proposals and the final draft offers a sharply circumscribed role for Japan's self-defence forces overseas.

Parliament will have the right of veto over each proposed mission, including planned Japanese participation in the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Cambodia.



Hear, hear: Shinichiro Shimojo, left, chairman of the Tokyo committee considering the bill to allow troops to serve abroad, being shouted at by an opposition MP

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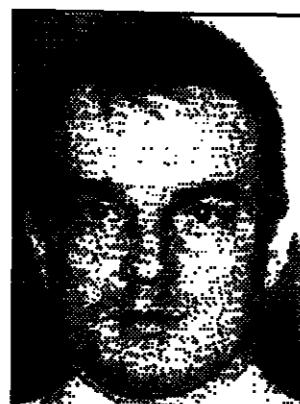
BY ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

POLAND has edged a little closer to a resolution of its seven-month-old political deadlock with the oupling of the stubbornly independent government of Jan Olszewski, the prime minister.

Last night Waldemar Pawlak, leader of the Polish Peasant Party, was approved by a 261-149 parliamentary margin after his endorsement by President Walesa. In an address to parliament before the vote, Mr Pawlak, 33, pledged to seek broad support for a "balanced" government with a common programme "because today especially we need not declarations, but actions".

He told the deputies that, although he was born in communist times, he wanted "to change that system". Mr Pawlak is the fourth prime minister since the 1989 overthrow of the communists, and the first whose roots are not in the Solidarity movement.

Mr Olszewski's removal has been on the cards for several months. The trigger for the no-confidence vote on Thursday night was a government decision to release (albe-



Pawlak actions, not declarations, needed it in sealed envelopes to party chiefs) the names of politicians connected with the communists' secret police. This so poisoned the atmosphere and panicked MPs that a good majority was found to dump Mr Olszewski.

Since general elections in October returned 29 parties to parliament, Poland has been beset by problems of authority. Mr Olszewski's centre-right government tried to seize back some of its natural governing authority by

Leading article, page 15

challenging the president on a series of defence, foreign and intelligence matters. The president resisted and there was talk of Mr Walesa preparing a benign coup.

In fact, Mr Walesa had simply concluded that Poland could only wriggle out of its difficulties if it were governed by a close partnership of prime minister and president. He has exited from the stalemate by finding a pliable prime minister.

Looking younger than his 33 years, Mr Pawlak is a competent but undistinguished political administrator willing to listen to and implement presidential initiatives. In return, he wants preferential policies for farmers, including cheap credits.

That and other economic issues, may make it difficult for Mr Pawlak to build a coalition committed to market reform. The president, however, will use his full power to create a solid cabinet. Above all, he has a plan for a network of strong deputy prime ministers.



Singled out: Jan Olszewski sits alone during the Polish parliamentary debate that led to his dismissal as prime minister after seven months' political deadlock

AS Vladimir Meciar skipped out of his grey Peugeot yesterday, a voice from the crowd shouted "Free Slovakia! Give us independence!" The Slovak politician, frontrunner in the current Czechoslovak elections, flashed a Cheshire cat grin and raised his fist.

That scene outside a Bratislava polling station was followed by another, in the rabbit-hutch housing estate of Petrzalka on the edge of the Slovak capital. "Look after us, Vaclav - keep our jobs" demanded a clutch of women near a playground. Mr Meciar smiled and, like the Cheshire cat, disappeared.

There is no doubting the support for this bull-necked man who split the original anti-communist coalition to form his own party, the Movement for Democratic Slovakia. He may pick up as much as 40 per cent of the votes after polls close today. But he will win because of the essential ambiguity of his policies. He wants Slovakia to move more slowly towards the market than the Czech lands; above all, he wants protection for the arms industry and the inefficient rust belt. Yet these factories are only kept alive because of federal subsidies from Prague. If Slovakia breaks away, it will be a small, impoverished country - five million people and an industry largely geared to the crumbling markets of the former Soviet Union. It may be politically independent but it will be economically beholden to neighbouring Austria.

Sooner or later, Mr Meciar is destined to break his election promises. Either he will drop his separatist rhetoric or he will ditch his left-wing economics. The betting is that he will tread more softly on independence. "When will you declare independence?" asked a reporter. "In not later than two months," barked back Mr Meciar, and in so doing ensured a few more uncommitted votes.

His schedule for Slovakia is as follows: a declaration of sovereignty soon after the new Slovak parliament is formed, a new Slovak constitution overriding the federal charter, a referendum on independence, and finally

Saturday Review, page 4

Moscow leaks put party on the spot

The Russian government is blighting Communist hopes of recovery with details of past sins, Bruce Clark writes

With a month to go before Russia's constitutional court delivers its verdict on the legality of the Communist party, a flood of material on the party's past sins - some horrifying, some farcical and some politically red-hot - is being released to the press.

Leaks from the party's archives include fresh details of the staggering cynicism with which Stalin carried out the 1937 purges, ordering the party boss of every region to draw up lists of people to be shot or sent into exile. The daily *Pravda* this week published the text of the order to prepare these hit lists, along with a reply from Nikita Krushchev, then Moscow party boss, saying that 40,000 "criminals" had been identified in the capital.

Other titbits offered to reporters yesterday by Mikhail Poltoranin, the Russian information minister, included a statement by Lenin which described as a "favourable development" for Bolshevism the terrible famine of 1922 which he was supposed to have tried to alleviate. Among a stream of data about donations to foreign communist movements was the name of John Reed, the American historian of the 1917 revolution, who was given \$1.5 million to foment subversion in his homeland.

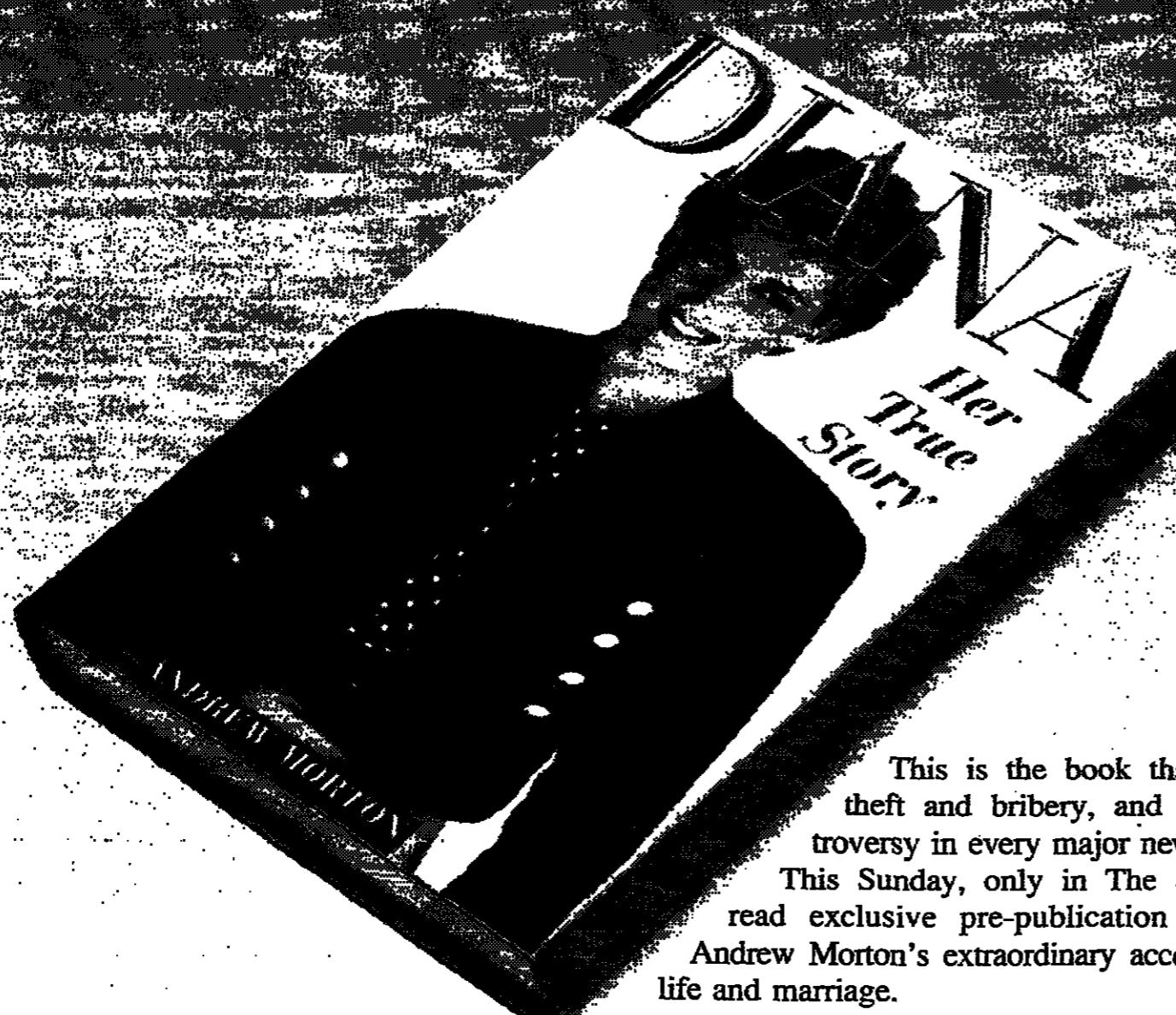
But Mr Poltoranin also made some embarrassing disclosures about the more recent past. As recently as 1989, the party's politburo, which was then headed by Mikhail Gorbachev, resolved to ensure that liberal members of the newly elected parliament - led by Andrei Sakharov and Boris Yeltsin - be denied access to the printing press.

The current flood of disclosures will almost certainly influence the climate in which the constitutional court will resume on July 7 its deliberations on whether

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Major hopes to allay US doubts over Europe

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR will fly into Washington this afternoon ready to assure a nervous American administration that Europe is not coming apart at the seams.

British officials recognise that Mr Major will have to counter American bewilderment over the European Community's response to the Danish rejection of the Maastricht and the strictures of James Baker, the US Secretary of State, over European policy on the Yugoslav war.

Fresh from his talks in Bonn yesterday with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, Mr Major will brief President Bush on Community affairs, his recent trip to Central Europe and his plans for the British presidency of the EC beginning on July 1. The two men are to spend most of

Arms pact signed by 29 states

FROM GEORGE BROCK
IN OSLO

TWO years after East and West agreed to a comprehensive arms control treaty, 29 states yesterday signed a new version in the hope of finally achieving the weapons cuts.

The Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty was agreed between Nato and the Warsaw Pact just before the disintegration of the communist alliance and the Soviet Union made implementation impossible. Under pressure from Nato to maintain the momentum towards deep cuts in numbers of tanks, planes and artillery, seven of the Commonwealth of Independent States agreed in Tashkent last month to an allocation of Soviet weapons.

Nato leaders said yesterday that they hoped that the treaty would be ratified before a European security summit scheduled for July. "This is one of the most important cornerstones of a future European security architecture," said Manfred Wörner, Nato's secretary-general.

But in a sign of the new realities, the foreign minister of Belarus said yesterday that his parliament might not ratify the treaty. Pyotr Kravchenko said there was domestic opposition to weakening the country's defences.

A political row broke out in Finland over the government's acceptance of an invitation to observe a meeting between Nato, East European and Commonwealth governments in the North Atlantic Co-operation Council. This was enough for President Koivisto to criticise the government for taking this step without consulting Scandinavian neutrals.

Bonn The withdrawal of the former Soviet army from east Germany is going faster than planned, despite the break-up of the Soviet Union, according to Major General Hartmut Foerst, chief German liaison officer (Ian Murray writes).

He said in Berlin yesterday there were now just 200,000 soldiers and about 145,000 dependants, about half the number at the time of unification.

Happiness is a German traffic jam

Many motorists get a masochistic kick from sweating it out in a long queue. Ian Murray writes from Bonn

Traffic jams are relaxing and fun for many motorists. This encouraging finding from a two-month investigation by the Hamburg leisure time research institute has been issued just in time to cheer up German drivers as they prepare for a traditionally sticky time over this Whit Sunday weekend.

The researchers interviewed 2,483 drivers from all over Germany to find out what went on in their minds when they were trapped in a traffic jam, or *Stau*, to use the word so often seen on the warning signs above the more notoriously congested stretches of motorway.

The majority were not surprisingly, unhappy when the traffic became snarled. The researchers found that different strains of "Stau fever" were widespread. Almost a third of drivers became nervous, 18 per cent became aggressive



Community spirit: John Major and Helmut Kohl at the German chancellor's residence in Bonn yesterday for talks on the future of the EC after the rejection of the Maastricht treaty in the Danish referendum

Besieged troops leave Sarajevo

FROM BILL FROST IN ZVORNIK
AND DESSA TREVISON IN BELGRADE

HEAVY guns on the hills above Sarajevo fell silent yesterday as warring Serbs and Muslims observed a brief truce to allow safe passage to 300 members of the Yugoslav national army trapped in their barracks since the bloody siege of the city began.

Shelling was halted at noon, and soon afterwards a convoy of buses left the Marshall Tito base under United Nations escort. The Muslim defenders of the city, who had agreed to the evacuation last week, were instructed by their commanders to hold fire until federal army forces had left Sarajevo en route for a Serbian held town to the south.

The Yugoslav forces, trapped in the barracks by constant shelling from fellow Serbs on the hills above, left behind their own heavy artillery and multiple-rocket launchers. According to some reports, shelling resumed as soon as the convoy left.

On the road northeast of Sarajevo at Olovo, a middle-aged man sat sobbing by his car. Two solemn toddlers stood watching him. Colic Nenad slipped through the Serb lines with his wife and children a day earlier and "borrowed" a car once clear of the city. Now the petrol tank had run dry and the family was marooned.

The sanctions have brought renewed calls in Belgrade from the Democratic opposition and Serbian academics for Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, to step down. Forty-six out of 90 members of the Serbian Academy of Science and Art have signed an appeal demanding that he and his régime resign for Serbia's sake.

Momir Bulatovic, the Montenegrin president, hinted in an interview on Thursday that the union might be reviewed. His office later issued a denial but there are clear signs that Montenegro, having somewhat reluctantly joined the union with Serbia, regards Mr Milosevic as chiefly responsible for the sanctions and the new Yugoslavia's isolation.

Rome Margaret Thatcher criticised the European Community for doing "the minimum possible" to stop the bloodshed in Yugoslavia. In an interview in an Italian magazine, she said an aircraft carrier should have been sent to protect the historic town of Dubrovnik. (Reuters)



Hurd: insisting on priority for Nato

membership card like a driving licence, which entitles the holder "to participate in any jam session". They provide *Stau* bumper stickers so members can identify fellow sufferers, and *Stau* cassettes, containing 60 minutes of recorded highlights from the traffic jam bulletin which cut automatically into tapes or programmes on most German car radios.

There are offers of *Stau* games and *Stau* packets containing boxes of wooden bricks and cutouts to while away those jam-packed hours, as well as *Stau* soap to freshen up and cards to invite fellow *Stau* victims over for coffee while they wait.

The union now boasts *Stau* bureaux in Berlin, Bonn, Krefeld and Nuremberg. Hans-Jörg Tauchert, the founder, began the group as a joke but membership among *Stau*-weary Germans is booming.

Florence reclaims its paradise garden

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

FLORENTINES have rebelled against an attempt to make them pay 5,000 lire (£2.50) for tickets to stroll around the Giardino di Boboli, the terraced park behind the Pitti palace.

A thousand people led by Giorgio Morales, the mayor, on Tuesday staged a demonstration outside the gates of the garden when ticket offices were opened for the first time on the orders of Domenico Valentino, superintendent for environmental heritage. Signor Valentino contends he is merely applying a law requiring the public to pay entrance to "open air museums".

The demonstrators, many of them women and children, refused to pay and surged

past the ticket offices. The park was designed by Tribolo in 1549 and is one of the few green spaces accessible to the public inside the city walls.

After another confrontation on Wednesday, Giorgio Musio, the prefect of Florence, overruled Signor Valentino on the ground that protests could cause "grave disturbances to order and public security". The prefect, who represents the Rome government, is applying a law requiring the public to pay entrance to a small section of the garden.

However, police had to intervene to have the gates opened on Thursday because custodians were slow to obey the decree.

Germans tighten law on asylum

FROM IAN MURRAY
IN BONN

A SCHEME to process asylum-seekers to Germany through centralised camps, holding up to 500 at a time, was passed by the Bundestag yesterday.

The privately run Malacanang Palace museum said that it can only operate after June 30 "at the discretion of the incoming president", yet to be confirmed, who will take over that day.

The centrepiece of the museum, established after Ferdinand Marcos was removed in 1986, is a basement containing more than 1,220 pairs of shoes left by his widow. A bulletproof bra is among other items in the former first lady's collection.

Aquino to make shoe tours free

President Aquino, who steps down at the end of the month, will throw open the gates of the Philippines presidential palace next week for free tours of Imelda Marcos' shoe collection and other exhibits.

The scheme was approved after eight months of bargaining between the government and opposition, with the aim of reducing the time needed to vet refugees to just six weeks. The idea to concentrate all refugees in the camps, most of them former army barracks, is to make it easier to prepare, hear and review their cases and make it possible to deport them quickly, if they fail in their appeal. This is meant to end the abuse of the present system under which most refugees manage to stay for years, whether they are given asylum or not.

Part of the new regulations will include fingerprinting to ensure that those who have failed to obtain recognition once cannot make a second attempt under another name.

The need for a change in the cumbersome system, which has allowed an estimated million asylum-seekers to settle in Germany over the past decade, was agreed by all main parties last October, after a wave of violent attacks on foreigners by right-wing extremists. The Christian Democrats were worried about the growth of violent racism and the opposition Social Democrats, who govern most large cities, wanted constitutional ways to stem the flow of new foreign migrants.

More than half of the refugees now arriving will not be expelled anyway. This is because they come from places such as Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Afghanistan and Iraq, where there is a war or an insecure environment, and Germany accepts it would be wrong to enforce repatriation.

• **Rebel warned:** Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrat Union threatened to expel any politician thinking of forming a party to represent east Germans. The warning was aimed at Peter-Michael Diestel, the party dissident and former East German interior minister.

A baby boy fathered by the Aids-infected basketball star, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, has been tested HIV-negative, Cable News Network reported. His wife Earletha was also tested negative.

Michael Jackson has been sued in Colorado for \$40 million (£22.5 million) by the songwriter Crystal Cartier, who claimed that he stole her song *Dangerous*.

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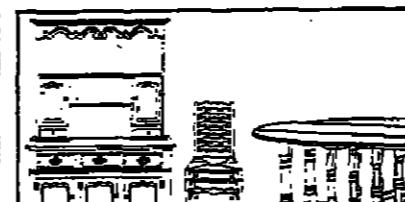


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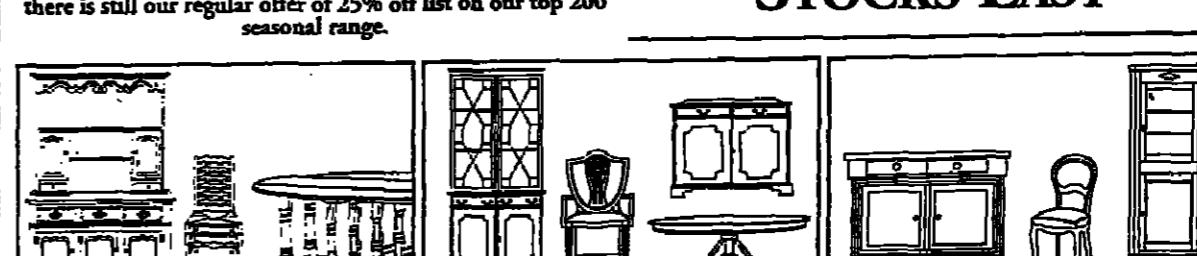
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READING 100-102 High St. 0734 583052
WICHES D.I.Y. Complex. 0734 583052
SHEFFIELD 2/4 Charter Square, Near Rail Crossing. 0742 722801

Clifford Longley

Will Ireland ever join the liberal, secular world?

Ireland is about to cross a historic watershed on the way to becoming a modern, secular society. The Irish people seem to be uprooting the Roman Catholic Church from its dominant position in national life, and replanting it far from the centre of political power. That can only be healthy for the development of Irish liberal democracy. It is for the church itself to choose whether to let it be healthy for religion, or whether clerical is a mean anticlerical. Here the signs are not so encouraging. From the point of view of the church's own interests, going our ungracefully, kicking and screaming, would be the worst possible outcome. If Catholicism ever collapses in Ireland, it is those responsible for that strategy who will be to blame. If the church does not rapidly adjust its stance and freely forgo its power rather than try once more to exert it, the consequence could be the growth of the sort of anticlericalism which is still deeply rooted in sections of society in Spain and France.

A key event in the accelerating secularisation process will be the Maastricht referendum on June 18. The Irish government says the referendum is entirely about Europe, and not at all about abortion, which got caught up in the Maastricht negotiation almost by accident. The Irish bishops, have called the treaty a "grave danger" to the unborn but, extraordinarily for Ireland, their statements have had virtually no impact on public opinion. For all the episcopal warnings, polls show anti-Maastricht sentiment in Ireland running at only 10 per cent, and even some of that can be attributed not to anti-abortion but to the small secular left.

Since the national shock at the case of the rape victim who was prevented by law from leaving the country for an abortion there has been a remarkable turnaround on the issue except by the bishops. The Supreme Court's decision that in certain cases abortion was permitted under Irish law is supported by a majority of the population, making the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child look distinctly fanatical in its continued absolutism. Among Irish women, support for abortion "in certain circumstances" has moved from 37 per cent five years ago to 60 per cent now. Clearly if the bishops and the anti-abortion campaigners press their opposition to another referendum, they will lose. One plaintive letter from an anti-abortionist in a Dublin newspaper protested that not everybody of that opinion should be dismissed as an extremist. The attitude which was all but universal ten years ago is now held only by a self-conscious and defensive minority.

Some of this abortion-fatigue can doubtless also be attributed to the ever more labyrinthine connection between abortion, Maastricht, and the national constitution. It is difficult to find anybody in Ireland who claims to understand the link. But above all there is a widespread mood of resigned cynicism about the church and state relationship new in Irish politics.

His follows close on the disgrace of Bishop Eamonn Casey after the disclosure of his clandestine affair. There is a collapse in the mystique surrounding episcopal authority in the eyes of ordinary people and even among priests. People have not stopped going to Mass. But what they hear, they hear differently. The invertebrate triumphalism of Irish Catholicism, which has set so much of its character for 150 years, suddenly looks utterly hollow.

After the referendum there is the prospect of legislation on contraception and to guarantee the right to travel, and a referendum next year to legalise divorce. Only the easing of the legal position of homosexuals is not yet on the cards. Ireland is now backing out of the moral cold-sac of absolutist Catholic doctrine imposed by law. Though the kind of Irish Catholic society conceived by de Valera in 1936 certainly did so, modern Catholicism does not expect any such alignment between the church's moral teaching and the civil law. Even the bishops have now admitted it, though without facing the full implications for abortion law. "Many actions which are immoral are not prohibited by the state," they said in a recent statement, "because attempts to prohibit them could lead to an unacceptable infringement of the personal liberty of citizens in a free society and could bring the law into disrepute." And furthermore, they might have added for their own benefit, could bring the church into disrepute too. That is the real danger to them now: Ireland is suddenly growing up fast, leaving the bishops far behind.

Gavin Stamp on the bad architecture and worse planning which helped sink Docklands

How not to plan a city



Skyscraper builder: Gary Cooper in *The Fountainhead*

There are no precedents in London or in Britain for Canary Wharf, either for the scale of its conception or the magnitude of its failure. For understanding we have to look across the Atlantic, whence came most of its architects, all its developers and much of their cash. The striking image of Canary Wharf, the single colossal tower glistening in the sun, reminds me most of the overweening skyscraper whose realisation on former slum land in New York concludes Ayn Rand's proto-Thatcherite gospel of individualism, *The Fountainhead* — a novel made into the best of architectural movies with Gary Cooper as the uncompromising architect-as-hero.

Canary Wharf itself started in another architectural film, the Prince of Wales' *Vision of Britain*, in a hilarious sequence in which HRH examined a model of the whole project and asked the architect of the great tower, Cesar Pelli: "Why does it have to be quite so tall?" No satisfactory answer was given.

Except that it is not. This failed development was not raised with private money alone but, like all of the new Docklands, was a product of massive hidden subsidy — government intervention without the usual planning control. This is the essence of Docklands' failure and the greatest irony.

In one way it is a pity that it had to be Canary Wharf that failed as the development is a cut above the rest of Docklands. Not that is saying much. As Stephanie Williams puts it in the memorable first line of her recent architectural guide to the

area, "London's Docklands contains one of the worst collections of late 20th-century building to be seen anywhere in the world."

There are a few highlights, such as John Outram's pumping station, but the general run of commercial architecture is tawdry and dismal — a result, if not

of a necessary consequence, of the absence of any sane planning controls. Canary Wharf, itself, stands out as ordered and

planned, while it must be admitted that Cesar Pelli's tower is a beautiful thing: a sheer, pure obelisk of glass and metal belonging in the heroic skyscraper tradition.

I am not so delighted with the other, lower buildings, however. One of the most repulsive architectural sights of the 1980s was seeing prefabricated panels with ill-proportioned pediments and columns hoisted up onto the

stepped frames that flanked the old West India Docks basins. The model for this was Olympia & York's development at Battersea Park in Manhattan. Yet what Canary Wharf most reminds me of is not west but east — in Bucharest. Like the Reichmann brothers, the late President Ceausescu laid out a grand straight avenue going nowhere, lined with dense urban blocks situated with postmodern classical detail in concrete. What this unexpected but striking similarity reveals about the convergence of both late communist and late capitalist megalomania I cannot say, but it may be significant that the president's architect was Paris-trained.

Paris is the home of the grand gesture and the conventional model for those who would plan our cities. But the ordinariness of Paris is a reflection of authoritarian politics: boulevards are laid out, cultural *grand projets* arise at the whim of a Napoleon III or President Mitterrand. We do not do things like that in London, a city of private enterprise and haphazard growth rather than order and symmetry. But not even M Mitterrand proposed anything as unreal as megalomaniac as Canary Wharf. The only equivalent is La

Defense, the office complex that rises up where the sun sets at the far end of the Champs Elysées. But La Défense would never have happened if the necessary transport links had not first been built, and it was never expected to succeed overnight.

Olympia & York, in contrast,

thought they could reverse the historic growth of London westwards and compete with the City in just a few years — in defiance of the difficulties of travelling east and despite the impossibility of instantly providing all the other amenities that make the Square Mile uniquely attractive: pubs and restaurants, narrow alleys and old churchyards — in short, all the products of slow, organic urban development.

Canary Wharf might have

stood slightly more chance of success had decent public transport been laid on at the start, but ideological government parsimony ensured that the Docklands Light Railway would be an incompetent toytown joke rather than an integrated and efficient limb of the London Transport network. Now, not even building the Jubilee Line extension — a decade too late — can redeem this failure to understand London's history.

But Docklands will still have its place in the history books. Already it is visited and closely studied by hordes of foreign architects and planners — as a perfect model of how not to plan cities.

Jackboots on the village green

Unmown lawn or untidy hedge?

Beware the rural thought police, writes a chastened Kerry Gill

If a family were to move into our village in Stirlingshire today they might or might not receive a visit from the vicar asking whether he could expect them at Communion on Sunday. What is certain though is that this very evening, just as the family sat down to dinner, there would be a pre-emptory rap on the door by a Best Kept Village official demanding to know why their hedge is too high, when the lone dandelion poking its head above the paving stones would be removed and, should no misdemeanours have been recorded, a request for them to buy a box of pansies with which to decorate their front window sills.

Up and down the country the first breath of summer has turned the Best Kept Village activists onto our village streets. From now until autumn they will conduct their annual, bossy little campaigns to further the municipalisation of rural Britain. With their park-keeper mentality the BKV conscripts are being marshalled to turn our villages into the prissy suburban enclaves whence most of them have come.

Nature, its weeds, unkempt hedges and verges, and unmanicured shrubbery, is a pestilence to them. In their thousands, with looks of self-righteous priggery, they will spend the next three or four months scouring the village streets with their potent brand of cul-de-sac hygiene. Where an ancient trodden path once served, concrete flags will be

placed. The rough village green will be neatly mown, varnished park benches set down and woe betide any brats who should risk playing football on the green.

Anyone who thinks that the Best Kept Village movement is conservationist should think again. Generally its members tend not to like trees unless they are flowering cherries. Trees attract birds which, as nature intended, are liable to leave droppings on their immaculate garden centre, rustic-style flagstones.

If you think this is an exaggeration you should come to our village where, on the morning of "judgment day" by the BKV authorities, the weaker-willed villagers are driven up the street to pick up any foreign body that might turn the stomach of one of the judges. The dissidents, and there are many in our village, usually make sure they have plenty of work to do.

Those toiling from dawn to dusk for the coveted awards love flowers, and the daintier the better, especially when they are planted in uniform ranks or stuffed into hanging baskets.

Baskets and tubs are distributed up and down streets but particularly in front of areas which they consider unpalatable, places like garages, sheds, bus shelters, public lavatories or anywhere that does not conform to their Legoland concept of the modern village.

The movement has superseded the local squirearchy. Each community's BKV cell is led by a few members of the aspiring

middle class for whom the idea of *noblesse oblige* is delicious. While they decree the future pattern of Britain's villages for the good of us all, they are aided by those whose desire to belong within the BKV hierarchy is so great that they are prepared to be treated as serfs. Why else would an otherwise sane woman spend days on hands and knees planting rows of pansies along a village street?

BKV people are as rude as they are soppy. Their sentimental view of the village street fuels a boundless cheek. A woman friend opened her curtains one morning to find one of them cutting her hedge. She was told it looked untidy. Another family found several of them in their grounds taking cuttings. The self-importance of the average village activist increases with every season.

of his priorities. Furthermore, having just bought the house, there was precious little spare cash left.

When the committee learnt that its suggestion might be ignored, it decided on a second visit. This time it was suggested to the householder that, instead of replacing all his windows as requested he could surely scrape enough money together so that he could buy several rolls of white sash tape and stick it on the windows to produce the required rustic effect. When challenged on any aspect of these neurotic, would-be gauleiters is "Don't you care about your village?"

These dissidents do care, of course, a point forever lost on the followers of this dim organisation who demand prettiness, cleanliness and, above all, no horrible smells of the farmyard. But the trouble is, one suspects, that most people believe the village activists "do a great job". Day trippers who stumble on a village that apes their own suburban back gardens are hardly likely to quail in horror. Instead they sit digesting their farmhouse tea on the newly varnished park benches longing for the day when they too can move into such a rural retreat and sort out the locals.

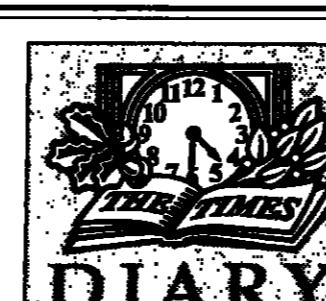
Almost as soon as he has arrived to live in his village the true BKVer will join the action group pledged to fight all new development. Almost? One I heard of actually joined the action group before his own house was built. The funny thing is that they are never found sitting, dreaming in their own gardens sniffing the smells of the countryside. They hate the place.

A plum in the east

APPARENTLY unmoved by criticisms of the so-called "brat pack" during the last election, Chris Patten has rewarded a leading member of the youthful Central Office team which ran one of the worst Tory campaigns in memory with the plum job of principal adviser to the new governor of Hong Kong. Edward Llewellyn, aged 26, recently passed over for the post of political secretary to John Major because of his youth, has landed the consolation prize of a three-year contract with the Hong Kong government, believed to be worth a year, tax free.

Llewellyn, an old Etonian who went to New College, Oxford, will fly to Hong Kong at the beginning of July, a week before Patten officially becomes governor of the colony. Currently head of the foreign affairs desk at Tory Central Office research department, Llewellyn is a European specialist rather than a Far East expert, prompting cruel jokes among jealous Tory colleagues that Patten has picked one of the few men in Britain who knows less about Hong Kong than the new governor himself.

Once a die-hard Thatcherite, Llewellyn has quickly adapted to the changing political landscape. When Mrs Thatcher delivered her first speeches on Europe from America last summer, it was Llewellyn who produced the early drafts. A few days later he popped up as one of the architects of John Major's far more pragmatic address on the same subject to the Konrad Adenauer Institute. As a result he was given an increasingly influential role and was seconded to be at Major's side on the battle bus throughout the election.



White George Bush and John Major wrestle at Camp David over the biodiversity treaty, most criticism surrounds its "unsignability" as a result of poor drafting.

Some in Whitehall were always determined that, regardless of what the politicians thought, Britain would sign. But what Mr Major may not realise is that the treaty was largely drafted by one of his own: take a bow, Dr David Fisk, Chief Scientific Officer at the Department of Environment.

Change of address

AS THE new life peers celebrate their elevation to the House of Lords today, what of their spouses? While David Owen considers what title to take, his wife, the successful literary agent Debbie Owen, was attending at a Bayswater party for William Shawcross on Thursday night that she would far prefer to remain plain Mrs Owen. When one guest prematurely referred to her as Lady Owen she visibly As yet she may have more support from baronesses than barons. Labour ladies seem to love the title. Denis Healey, for example, yesterday insisted: "Edna will be plain Lady Healey." Support for Debbie Owen comes from fellow American Marjorie Thompson.

the chairman of CND and long-standing partner of the Welsh Nationalist, Dayidd Elis Thomas. If and when they get married she, too, will refuse to allow anyone to call her Lady. Dr Mary Archer, wife of Jeffrey, has yet to declare her view: his ennoblement is expected next week.

As for the male spouses of titled women, they remain plain Mr. Lady Trumpton, the former agriculture minister, complains about the problems of checking into hotels. The poor husbands, signing the register as plain Mr, are frequently taken for the chauffeur... or worse.

Cries and Whiskas

EVERYTHING these days has its price and, not far behind, a sponsor or with a corporate logo. Halifax Town football club is not exactly the biggest catch for a thriving company wanting to see its name emblazoned on Match of the Day. So it was more in hope than expectation that John McGrath, the club manager, recently sent a round robin seeking sponsorship. In addition to the usual invitations covering the centre forward's shirt and the goalkeeper's boots, McGrath put out to tender everything else — down to the club cat, Benny. Ethan Adams, a computer software company, which already sponsors the half-time cuppa at Wolverhampton Wanderers, has now stepped in and agreed to sponsor 365 tins of Whiskas next season. The club denies rumours that if their league fortunes do not revive, Benny may find himself sharing his pre-match lunch with the rest of the team.

Special issue

THE management of the English National Opera is showing a quite blatant disregard for Noel Coward's famous advice to Mrs Worthington. David Pountney, the company's director of productions has not only his daughter on the stage but his son, too. Eight-year-old James is currently appearing in ENO's *Falstaff* as Sir John's page, while his sister Amilia is in the chorus.

"They made their debut as foxubs in *The Cunning Little Vixen*. They were such a hit they were asked to audition for their current roles," says a spokesman, who insists there was no favouritism. Going perhaps one better, Peter Jonas, general director of the

When I advise her
She buries
her head
in the sand



ENO, is to put his wife on the boards. Lucy Jonas will make her debut tomorrow night in Benjamin Britten's *Noyes Fludde* at the Royal Festival Hall — as an ostrich.

• The culinary legacy of Elizabeth David will linger on the nation's taste buds for years to come, but what of her artistic bequest? Four months before her death, David donated her most valuable painting, *The Eggs* by Cedric Morris, to the Tate Gallery. According to friends she stipulated that it should be put on display within three months. There is still no sign of the picture but the gallery says: "We are hoping to find a slot soon," insists a spokesman.



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

Because of distance and difficulty, Japanese has had less interaction with English than most other languages. But even that is changing. Most Japanese study English at school for from eight to ten years. And those who ask you, unwisely, to film them with their video cameras standing beside Peter Pan at crack of dawn, in Kensington Gardens, certainly speak English better than I speak Japanese.

Japanese is a strong independent language, which is nevertheless being affected by the worldwide spread of English. Nobody quite knows the genetic relationship of Japanese to other languages. The best guess is that it is an eccentric member of the Altai family, that vast group of languages that spreads from Turkey to the frozen north-east tip of Asia, and is named after the Altai mountain region of Mongolia and China.

Its logic and imagery are very different from English. D.J. Enright, who was a visiting professor at Kōnan University for three years, wrote: "The Japanese language is such that by the time you know it sufficiently well for your knowledge to make any vital difference, it is probable that you will be too emerated — if indeed you are nothing worse than emerated — to write about the Japanese people. You may not even notice them any more." A Japanese student told Peter Quennell: "I think that the English language is the expression of the English people as well as the Japanese

language is that of the Japanese. The English people are creative like a fountain jumping up toward Heaven eternally. Therefore the English language is always fresh and pure. The Japanese people are rather mechanical like a rat coming out of hole. Therefore the Japanese language is hesitating." I don't know about rats coming out of holes. But there is a conceptual chasm as wide as the Altai mountains between Japanese and English. Both are languages of ambiguities and indirection.

Tourism and television are bridging the chasm between the two languages. Japanese words from *samurai* to *sukiyaki* are coming into the central core of English, understood by the average Briton who has never ventured farther east than Southend, perhaps being subtly changed in the process by alien film directors and alien cooks.

The tide of Jingo flows even more strongly from English into Japanese, because of the craze of the Japanese young for everything American. This is as keen as it was in Britain in the Fifties and Sixties, and produces the remarkable dialect known as Janglish or Japlish, strong on trendy vocabulary, weak on coherence. For example, on the back of a scarlet satin windcheater worn by a post-Elvis Japanese youth: "Here comes Colorific Show with Groovy Jump into the dreamy paradise on taking it make you reckon we are a rum race."

LIVING



ADVANCE ON RIO

Attacked by American greens for his anti-Rio electioneering, President Bush protests that America is second to none in its concern for global environmental protection. Therefore America should not be damned because it will not sign the bio-diversity convention at this month's Earth summit.

Mr Bush's second claim is truer than his first. When John Major sits down with him to rehearse each country's approach to Rio, their joint goal must be to make both claims equally true. America has valid objections to the bio-diversity treaty, objections partly shared by Britain. Mr Major has ideas for resolving them. But if he is to go to Rio in the hope of brokering a deal, he has to have American good will for his efforts. That is what his meeting with Mr Bush in Camp David is about.

Britain has already successfully nursed the United States towards a more sympathetic participation in the Rio conference. Michael Howard, the environment secretary, helped to weaken the global warming treaty to bring it below America's pain threshold, on the ground that a weak anti-pollution agreement which America could sign was better than a strong one which it rejected. In the case of bio-diversity, a treaty which was acceptable to America would almost certainly overcome Britain's objections too.

The modifications necessary to meet British and American doubts would not significantly harm the interests of any other participating nation. At present industrially advanced countries need pay nothing to the nation of origin in return for access to its rare species of fauna and flora, though they may use those species in research which leads to profitable new drugs or plant strains. It is right that poor countries should start to share in such profits and in genetic research. This is what the treaty attempts to achieve.

Attempts, but at present fails; and the flaws cannot be put right by renegotiation in the few days allotted to Rio. There is another

ROADS TO FREEDOM

Yesterday Poland lost yet another prime minister and another government. East Europe's post-revolutionary hangover is now becoming acute. Early progress by the fledgling Eastern democracies towards capitalism through shock therapy has been paid for with mass unemployment and dislocation. People who once had wads of notes in their pockets but nothing in the shops now find shops groaning with Western goods that few can afford to buy. Now democracy itself is feeling the strain. Disillusionment with squabbling, shiftless politicians has set in.

Two thirds of the Czechs and Slovaks who go to the polls today say that their country has "too much democracy". Hungarians are distracted by quarrels between president and prime minister. But Polish politics is saddest of all. The Poles suffered dismemberment by the three most reactionary powers of the *ancien régime* yet never lost their taste for freedom. After a false dawn between the world wars, Poland was butchered by the hostility of well-meaning Britons eager to write off the new nation. Keynes said Poland was "an economic impossibility". Lewis Namier called Poland "pathological" and E. H. Carr, amongst other things an influential advocate of realpolitik in *The Times*, described it as a "farc". After the second world war liberal apologists for Soviet order were less influential.

Britain forgets too quickly that many present allies in the European Community have had worse political teething problems without suffering Poland's historical disabilities. Poles have fought through fire to win their freedom. It would be wrong to expect too much from their first steps. But it would be helpful to offer better advice on political reform than has been offered in the recent past. Every European has a vested interest in democracy in the East. This weekend it remains a frail flower.

FIXING FIXTURES

So David Mellor is not to have his little list. The heritage secretary announced yesterday that there is to be no extension of the listing of historic houses to embrace moveable, and thus internationally saleable, works of art of national importance. He is right, though not for the reason given, that listing would diminish the rights of owners to deal with their property as they wish. So do historic building lists, planning controls and export restrictions. The question is merely how best to achieve three great goals.

The first is that great works of architecture be not molested, a goal met by historic buildings control. The second is that moveable works of art integral to those buildings such as murals, architect-designed furnishings and works of art associated with the building's history, should not be stripped from them. Many owners vociferously argue that they should be able to buy and sell family artworks as did their predecessors. They point out that sales are one way of keeping houses in good repair. The Warwick, Bedford and Spencer families have all met fierce opposition from conservationists for their disposals. It was such disposals that the new list, proposed by the review committee on the export of artworks, was to stem.

Mr Mellor believes that such a list would be unmanageable. It would take years to prepare — Portugal's has all but collapsed as a result — and would mean a flood of sales as owners sought a pre-empt listing by selling their property first. It would be an invitation to smuggling. The listing authorities would most likely be over-enthusiastic. Families would find their assets, and their ability to manage crises in house maintenance, drastically diminished. The owners lobbied hard and have won their case.

If there is to be no list of moveable works,

way. The draft treaty was initialised in Nairobi on May 22 by 98 countries. Its text was produced at the eleventh hour in the pre-Rio negotiations by Mostapha Tolba, head of the UN Environment Programme, on a take-it-or-leave-it basis, after months of unproductive north-south wrangling. Representatives of 19 members of the rich-nation OECD initialised it only with an explanatory memorandum. This indicated that unless the treaty was interpreted in a certain way, they were dissenting from it. But the memorandum has no force in international law.

What Britain seems to have in mind is to attach to the text a binding annex on the principles for interpreting the treaty's financial provisions. This would meet the main Anglo-American objection. As it stands, the treaty gives the *poorer nations* a virtual blank cheque drawn on the treasures of the richer nations, and at the same time enables the poorer nations to outvote the richer nations on how such funds should be spent.

Similarly, Anglo-American misgivings about the treaty's treatment of intellectual property might be resolved if certain sweeping interpretations of the text were ruled out in advance. Mr Howard has complained that some treaty clauses drive a coach and horses through intellectual property rights. The answer is to block the road with a more legitimate protection to commercial patents and trademarks.

America and Britain both recognise that what is at stake is much more than who shall profit from the international traffic in rare species and their genes. Rio offers the best chance of preserving as many as possible of the present varieties of living forms in the world. This priceless stock of genetic richness rightly demands a workable treaty to protect it. Once destroyed it can never be replaced. For America and Britain to take the lead in preventing that would be the ideal outcome of the Rio conference.

Monarchy in Lesotho

Maastricht: dead, or alive but in need of resuscitation?

From Mr Stephen Woodward

Sir, The Maastricht agreement is not dead; neither is its implementation outside the Treaty of Rome or its wholesale renegotiation required to keep it alive, as you suggest in your leader today. It is the exact wording of the current treaty, rather than the substance of the agreement that can no longer be considered valid because of its rejection by the Danish people.

This rejection can easily be overcome by the use of the same opt-out formula which overcame British objections to the early draft of the agreement. The Danish government needs to decide which policy areas of the treaty it can identify which are less acceptable to the *Danish people* than others, such as monetary union, foreign and security policy, interior policy or indeed social policy. It can then negotiate an opt-out clause on these specific areas and call a second referendum on a revised treaty text including these opt-outs.

The difficulty for Denmark will be to identify their areas of disagreement as some voted against the treaty because it went too far, others because it did not go far enough and yet others who simply wished to register a protest vote against the government and the style of the campaign as it appeared too arrogant.

There is some evidence already that some of those who voted against the treaty (particularly amongst these last two categories) now regret their *vote* as they had previously believed the "No" campaign could not win and so they could exercise a "safe" protest. Once, however, suitable parts of the text relating to specific policies can be identified and made subject to an opt-out clause the matter can swiftly be concluded and returned to the people of Denmark for a fresh vote.

The only way that the Maastricht agreement will effectively be killed is if a wholesale renegotiation of the treaty is initiated. This is doubtless the motive behind those "Euro-sceptics" who seek to reopen the debate.

To start again will mean the end of all the compromises carefully entered into the treaty and will make any new agreement unlikely. This is not acceptable and the British government is right to reject it. If the other member states remain as resolute there should be no problem in overcoming the Danish difficulty

Yours sincerely,
ALAN SKED
(Chairman, Anti-Federalist League,
Flat 3, Aberdeen Court,
68 Aberdeen Park, Highbury, N5.
June 5.)

From Sir Richard Body, MP for Holland with Boston (Conservative)

Sir, The small majority against the Maastricht treaty was not a true reflection of Danish opinion. I was asked by the organisers of the "No" campaign to go to Denmark to advise on tactics and also rebut the assertion that the British people were overwhelmingly in favour of the treaty.

I was dismayed to find that there was scarcely any money to fight an adequate campaign. In the result, for every one kroner paid in putting the "No" case about 20 kroner were spent by the other side. If we had had an equal amount to spend several of their claims could have been countered — that 200,000 jobs would be lost by a "No" vote (the equivalent of two million in the UK); that there

smooth transition to democratic rule and that if he went ahead the government of this country would publicly denounce him.

I write specifically to condemn the Foreign Office for pursuing a hidden agenda which could have very serious consequences, not only for Lesotho but for the whole of southern Africa and the people there.

His right to the monarchy has never been revoked constitutionally by referendum to the people but only by decree of the non-elected Military Council. The king has now decided to return to his own country (report, May 30).

Without warning, on the morning

set for his departure, he was summoned by the Minister for Overseas Development, Baroness Chalker, to her office. There he was told that his return would set back prospects for a

Growing pains

From Mrs Catherine M. Money

Sir, There is a solution to Peter Arup's problem of children with big feet (letter, May 29). I, too, have two sons, aged nine and ten with enormous feet, and thus fall into the VAT trap. The solution for Mr Arup is to take his family to Italy for a long weekend.

On the assumption that each boy will need eight pairs of shoes in a year, as the feet continue to grow without any regard to Mr Arup's bank balance (two pairs everyday shoes, two pairs good shoes, two pairs trainers, one pair cricket boots, one pair football boots, and let's forget the wellies) which means 16 pairs for two boys, at an average (even modestly) cost of £35 a pair, this will cost £560 per annum.

All these shoes are available in better quality with better styling at half the price in Italy, thus saving £280, which will pay for the whole weekend for one of Mr Arup's family.

Yours faithfully,
CATHERINE MONEY,
Biddies Farm, Chobham,
Woking, Surrey.
May 29.

Measure for measure

From Dr F. Ian Lamb

Sir, Confusion on metrication is not confined to Britain (Nigel Hawkes, "Error of our weights", May 29). I have just returned from nine months

in Italy, where the pack of frozen

peas between the single person's

pack of 100g and the family pack of

1kg is not the logical 500g, but

rather 450g, as near to 1lb as you

can get and still use a (fairly) round

number.

I had a TV with a screen measuring 14 pollici, or inches. I decorated my flat with a mixture of 2½-in and 64mm paint brushes from the same shop, and I had to buy a 27in replacement wheel for my racing bike, a French model sold in London with 700mm wheels.

Confusion may reign in the UK, but we are not alone.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN LONGLEY,
The Beeches, East Park,
Crawley, Sussex.

Planning ahead

From Sir Norman Longley

Sir, Your correspondent, Alfred Black, at age 79, is depressed when he finds all those mentioned in your "Birthdays today" column younger than he is (letter, May 29).

At 91 plus my reaction is just the opposite as I reflect upon my good fortune still to be around and able to read your distinguished journal,

having done so for some 70 years.

Yours faithfully,

NORMAN LONGLEY,

The Beeches, East Park,

Crawley, Sussex.

If there is to be no list of moveable works,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Casting a fly on far-flung rivers

From Mr M. Davidson-Houston

Sir, Like Mr Roper-Evans (letter, May 30) I was recently signed up by my wife for two weeks' hard labour at a Romanian asylum and, like him, I am a keen fisherman. On my only day off during this "holiday" I persuaded a friend to drive me up the Carpathians in Transylvania.

The country and many of the streams were mouth-watering, but we discovered en route that even in late April (the Orthodox Easter) the season had not yet opened. The higher hills were still under snow. The most idyllic river I inspected was in the pass leading up to Pojorita, hundreds of log-built weirs breaking the fall of the river into a myriad of outstandingly fishable pools.

I hope that Mr Roper-Evans gets over the wall of his monastery to reach this soul-restoring stretch of heaven.

REGARDS,
MICHAEL DAVIDSON-HOUSTON,
Bell House, Braughing,
Hertfordshire.

From Mr Adrian Steger

Sir, Mr Roper-Evans is not alone with the problem of fishing on holiday. I shall be in the Hindu Raj, where, if the streams are anything like those in Kashmir are reputed to be, trout are to be found.

Unfortunately, the only book to hand (*The Rod in India*, 1897) hardly mentions the northern areas or trout, rather discussing another fish, the mahseer.

To make matters worse I have been advised to use a spinner! I could therefore be after the wrong fish with the wrong tackle.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN STEGER,
52 Fenwick Road,
Peckham Rye, SE15.

From Mrs Arabella Kiszely

Sir, In his quest for a suitable trout fly for Eastern Carpathia, Mr Roper-Evans may be interested to hear that I distinctly remember reports, at about the time of President Ceausescu's demise, of the Bloody Butcher making a considerable killing in the area.

Yours faithfully,
ARABELLA KISZELY,
Hopp House, BFP 030.

From Mr G. B. Durham

Sir, Some 18 years ago I was in Russian Moldavskaja — which borders on the Carpathians — where trout streams abound. The local peasantry advised the use of the *Pokazny* (Ostentation).

Perhaps your monastic holiday-maker may care to try it, unless of course his is an enclosed community.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
G. B. DURHAM,
Broad Oak House, Broad Oak,
Garway, Herefordshire.

From Mr William Shields

Sir, A Red Abbey might be tactless, but the trout might welcome a Priest. A Red Booby could raise some local smiles, not only amongst the fish. But I think Mr Roper-Evans could do worse than to take a Blue Doctor and vast supplies of Medicine Fly.

Happy fishing,
WILLIAM SHIELDS,
Primrose Hill, Draycote,
Nr Rugby, Warwickshire.

Beaten tracks

From the Chief Archivist of the City of Westminster

Sir, May I correct Mr Brian Salt (letter, June 4). Five (not four) streets south of The Strand were named after George (not John) Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham (1628-87). George Street (now York Buildings), Villiers Street, Duke Street (now part of John Adam Street). Of Alley and Buckingham Street were all built on the site of York House. Of Alley, which first appeared in the ratebooks in 1677, became York Place in about 1854.

There were also four streets named after the Adam brothers: John, Robert, James and William — but William Street and James Street are now Durham House Street.

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET SWARBRICK,
Chief Archivist,
City of Westminster,
Victoria Library,
160 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1.
June 4.

What's in a name?

From Mrs Annie Scott

Sir, I have cleared up the uncertainty in our house as to who is calling whom (letter, June 3 etc); the children and I have decided to name our next dog "Darling" as my husband persists in calling us all by this name. As we tend to ignore his call, believing he means someone else, this will at least ensure he gets some response.

Yours etc.,
ANNIE SCOTT,
Low Fields, Upper Astrop,
Kings Sutton,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Weekend Money letters, page 26

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

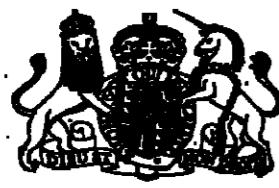
From Mr R. T. Baxter

Sir, I have no doubts. If my wife speaks in a kindly tone of voice my children and I know for certain that she is talking to the cats.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN BAXTER,
112 Thurleigh Road, SW12.
June 3.

From Mr Peter Viggers, MP for Gospot (Conservative)

Sir, Some years ago British Airways and Air France operated identical concessions, whereby the purchaser of a first-class return ticket received another ticket free. British Airways called it "The Spouse Concession". Air France offered "Le Vol d'Amour".



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 5: The Duke of Edinburgh opened the Holker 1992 Great Garden and Countryside Festival at Holker Hall, Cark-in-Cartmel, Cumbria.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Cumbria (Sir Charles Graham, Bt).

His Royal Highness, Trustee of the Council, this evening attended the 1992 St George's House Annual Lecture at St George's Chapel, Windsor.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 5: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the National Council for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, this afternoon opened the Bedfordshire Child Protection Team's Centre in Luton. Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Bedfordshire (Mr Samuel Whithbread).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present this evening at the dinner given by the Bedfordshire Centenary Committee of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children at Hinchingbrooke House.

Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Herefordshire (Mr Simon Bowes Lyon).

The Lady Glenconner was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 5: The Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Adjutant General's Corps, was present at the inaugural Corps Day, Winchester, Hampshire.

Miss Suzanne Marland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 5: The Duke of Kent today visited the South of England Show, Ardingly, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, and was received by Major-General Sir Philip Ward (Vice-Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex).

Captain the Hon Tom Coke was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, this afternoon left Royal Air Force Northolt, for Normandy, France.

Mrs Julian Tomkiss was in attendance.



The Duchess of Gloucester inspecting the Adjutant General's Corps at its inaugural corps day at Worthy Down, near Winchester, Hampshire, yesterday. The duchess is deputy colonel-in-chief of the corps

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Sir Derek Ahun-Jones, company director, 59; Sir Isaiah Berlin, OM, former president, British Academy, 63; Professor B. Bleasby, physicist, 77; Mr Bjorn Borg, tennis player, 36; Lord Carrington, CH, CH, 73; Mr David Chipp, former editor-in-chief, Press Association, 65; Dame Ninette de Valois, CH, founder, Royal Ballet, 94; the Earl of Dumfries, 79; Mr Mike Gatting, cricketer, 35; Mr Iain Hamilton, composer, 70; Professor R.A. Humphreys, Latin-American historian, 85; Mr J. Kay-Mout, President of the States, Alderney, 59; Lord Kings Norton, 90; Mr Willie-John McBride, rugby player, 52; Sir Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, former MP, 61; the Marquess of Milford Haven, 31; Sir Douglas Mørup, chartered accountant, 68; Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman, Post Office, 60; Lord Nugent of Guildford, 85; Air Marshal Sir Charles Pringle, 73; Dr Ruth Sanger, haematologist, 74; Lord Stodart of Leiston, 76; Mr Klaus Tennstedt, conductor, 66; Mr Frank Tyson, cricketer, 62; Miss Whitehead, actress, 60.

TOMORROW: Lady Elizabeth Anson, party planner, 51; Mr Derek Baron, former chairman and chief executive, Ford Motor Company, 63; the Right Rev

63.

Service luncheons

19th King George V's Own Lancers
Brigadier John Woodroffe presided at the annual luncheon of the 19th King George V's Own Lancers held yesterday at St Ermin's Hotel.

Central India Horse
The Indian High Commissioner and Mrs Singhvi attended the annual luncheon of retired officers of the Central India Horse held yesterday at Claridge's hotel. Brigadier Thurstan Edward Colins presided.

Skinner's Horse
Officers of Skinner's Horse (1st Duke of York's Own Cavalry) and their ladies held their annual luncheon yesterday at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Gray presided.

Indian Police (UK) Association
Former officers of the Indian Police (UK) Association held their annual luncheon yesterday at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mr S.E. Robinson presided.

Luncheon
The Association of Independent Research and Technology Organisations

The Right Hon Timothy Sainsbury, MP, Minister for Industry, was the Guest of Honour at a luncheon given by the Association of Independent Research and Technology Organisations on Tuesday, and was succeeded by Mr Ian Taylor, MBE, MP for Esher. The AIRTO President, Dr Bruce G. Berke, spoke on innovation and the role of research and technology organisations.

Service dinners

HMS Collingwood
Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, was the guest of honour at the annual Collingwood dinner held last night at HMS Collingwood. Captain P.F. Watson presided.

Among others present were Vice-Admiral Sir Philip Watson, Vice-Admiral Sir Neville Purvis and Rear Admirals D. K. Bawtree, J.M.T. Hilton and I.H. Pirie.

The Royal Norfolk Regiment
Major-General Sir David Thorne presided at the annual dinner of The Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Dinner Club held last night at the Norfolk Club.

Royal Army Veterinary Corps
General Sir Brian Kenney, Colonel Commandant, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, attended the annual dinner of the RAVC Officers' Club held last night at the Naval and Military Club. Brigadier A.H. Parker Bowles, Director, RAVC, presided and the principal guests were Mr J.B. Walsby, President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and Mr H. Helling, President of the British Veterinary Association.

Polytechnic news

Teesside
Teesside Polytechnic will become the University of Teesside, subject to the grant of the Prince's Council. Dr Michael D. Longstaff, the current director and chief executive, will become the first vice-chancellor. However, he plans to retire on October 1 and his successor will be Dr Derek Fraser, deputy principal of Sheffield City Polytechnic.

Reception
Lord Newall
Lord Newall was host at a reception held yesterday at the House of Lords for the Indian Cavalry Officers' Association.

WOLFE MURRAY - On May 20th, to Marion (née Zorah) and Rory, a daughter, Flora (née Seaward) and Christopher, a sister for Miriam and Jamie.

PURVIS - On May 21st, in Tokyo, to Phillip (née Seaward) and Christopher, a son, Lucian Andrew, a son, a brother for Anna and Jamie.

SANDER - On May 24th, in Denbigh (née Sparge) and Michael, a son, George Bertrand, and Charles.

EDWARDS - On May 29th, in St. Mary's, London, to Sophia and Charles, a son.

ALLEN - On May 28th, at St. John's, Liverpool, to Antonia (née Samperi-Turner) and Adrian, a son, James, a brother for Olivia and Helen.

BASRA - On June 3rd, at the Humana Hospital, Wellington, to Devi and a son, Devi Samini.

EDWARDS - On June 4th, at St. John's, Liverpool, to Joanna and Jeremy, a beautiful daughter, Sophie Nelessa.

CHAPMAN - On June 4th, to Jane and Adrian, a daughter, Arabella Rose, a sister for Anna and Jamie.

DEWAR-SUSSELL - On May 29th, 1992, at St. Mary's, London, to Sophia and Charles, a son.

EDWARDS - On May 19th, at UCH, London, to Penny (née Cusdin) and Julian, a daughter, Jessica Charlotte, a sister for Nicholas.

FEHERVARY-POWER - On May 19th, 1992, at Royal Hospital, Chelsea, to Mark, a son, Timothy David.

TOUCHE - On June 3rd 1992 at St. John's, Liverpool, to William, a son, Harry George.

WAGG - On June 4th, 1992, at Hospital, Freemason's Melbourne, to Sarah-Jane and Nicola Elizabeth Sterling.

WATSON - On June 3rd, 1992, at the Hinchinbrooke Hospital to Sarah (née Davison) and Graham, a daughter, Helen Rosalind.

CHAIRES - On June 1st, 1992, at St. John's, Liverpool, to Maureen Scully, a friend of Maureen Scully.

GOODFELLOW - On Thursday June 4th, 1992, peacefully at St. John's Nursing Home, Liverpool, to Dorothy, a daughter for Miriam and David.

BAILEY - On Thursday June 4th, 1992, at St. John's, Liverpool, to Charlotte, a sister for Miriam and David.

TOOP - On June 4th, 1992, at St. John's, Liverpool, to John, a daughter, Linda, a son, Lucian Andrew, a son, a brother for Anna and Jamie.

WILFREY - On May 20th, to Phillip (née Seaward) and Christopher, a son, Lucian Andrew, a daughter, Arabella Rose, a sister for Anna and Jamie.

WILFREY - On May 21st, in Tokyo, to Phillip (née Seaward) and Christopher, a son, Lucian Andrew, a son, a brother for Anna and Jamie.

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WILFREY

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM GAINES

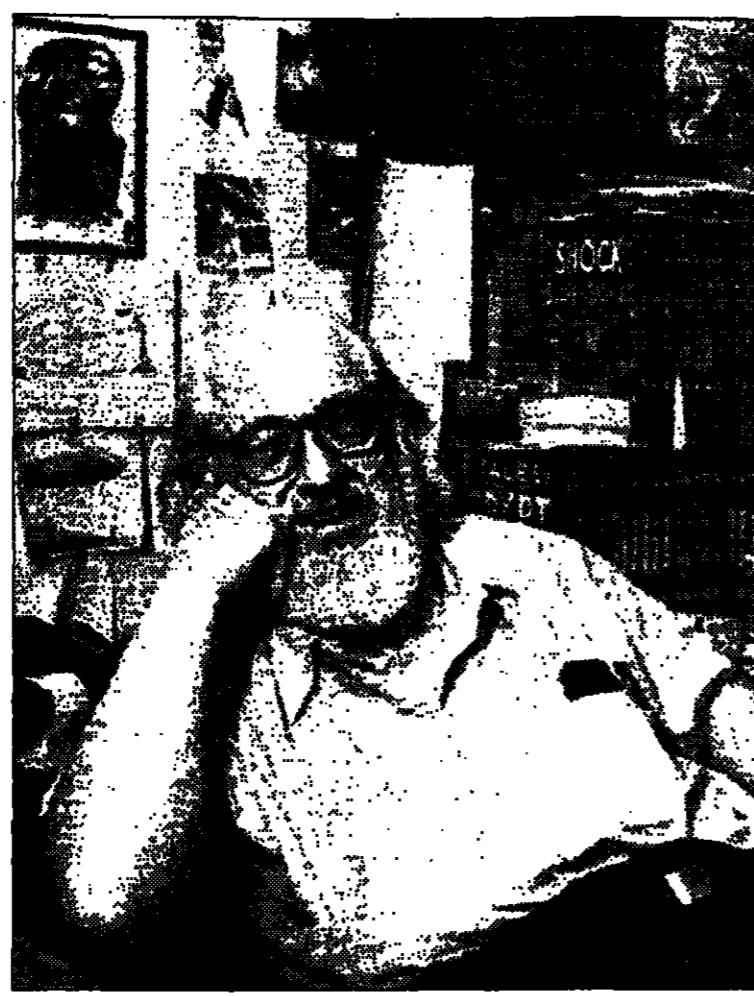
William M. Gaines, founder and publisher of *MAD* magazine, the monthly whose irreverent satire had a profound effect on American humour over four decades, died in his sleep at his Manhattan home on June 3, aged 70. He was born in New York City on March 1, 1922.

THERE was something different about the water cooler in *MAD*'s Madison Avenue office as the thirsty but unwary visitor soon discovered, it was filled with wine. For William Gaines, 17 stone of shaggy, rumpled eccentricity, such unorthodox in office management was the norm. "My staff and contributors create the magazine," he once said. "What I create is the atmosphere." It was a piece of characteristically generous modesty.

When *MAD* magazine first hit the newsstands in 1952, there had never been anything quite like it. Zany and colourful, with unabashed send-ups of everything from celebrities to comic strips, it was the perfect antidote to the smug self-satisfaction of America in the 1950s. To its readers, most of them teenagers, it rapidly became an essential part of growing up. Its cover picture, a goony-faced, gap-toothed boy named Alfred E. Neuman, forever grinned his way through life over the caption: "What's new?" It was a monologue so enduring that it recently graced the cover of *Esquire* magazine — under a picture of a grinning President Bush.

Yet there was something essentially ambivalent about Neuman's persona. One of *MAD*'s British editors once confessed that living with him was as much a ghoul as a goonish experience, "like having incurable acne". His grin was as predatory as the opening jaws of Dracula and it was observed that his missing fang switched positions unerringly from side to side of his mouth over the years.

The magazine had begun by chance when Harvey Kurtzman, a cartoonist who had been interviewing Korean War veterans for combat comic books, came down with jaundice and decided to create something he could write from his sick bed. Gaines gave him his chance, and the success of the



project exceeded everyone's expectations.

When the magazine achieved a circulation of one million, the celebration was in typical *MAD* style: Gaines shipped the entire staff to Haiti, where there was precisely one subscriber, and led a cavalcade to the unsuspecting man's house to present him with a subscription-renewal card.

Gaines was already rich when *MAD* began, though no one would have known it from his wardrobe which looked, a friend once said, as though it had come straight from the laundry basket. He had inherited a comic book empire from his father, Max Gaines, who was an early pioneer of the American comic. Indeed, his *Famous Funnies*, which was first published in 1933 at

a price of ten cents, was soon a newsstand staple.

William Gaines was educated at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, where he was more remarkable for the chaos-inducing pranks he was apt to play on fellow students and staff than for his academic prowess. He left in 1942 to join the US Army in which he served until 1946. After the war he continued his education and took a Bachelor of Science degree at New York University.

In 1947 his father was killed in a motor boat accident and Gaines junior was summoned to take over the reins of his publishing company. He immediately launched a range of horror comics with titles such as *Stories from the Crypt*, farragos of absurd nonsense about slithering

blobs of swamp which threatened to invade the city, *Haunt of Fear*, which dived into similarly ludicrous quagmires of horror; and the ridiculously-named *Shock Suspenstories*. These greatly improved the trading position of the Gaines company but their illustration was so graphic that they attracted the attention of Congress.

Investigating charges that comics were ruining the nation's youth, the senate sub-committee on juvenile delinquency called Gaines as its star witness in 1954. Senator Estes Kefauver, brandishing a cover of one of the Gaines productions showing an axe-wielding man holding a severed human head, demanded to know if the publisher considered this to be in good taste. "Well," Gaines replied thoughtfully, "I think it would be bad taste if he were holding the head a little higher so the neck would show with the blood dripping from it."

Nonetheless, Gaines joined the rest of the comic book industry in voluntary restraint from such excesses, and concentrated instead on *MAD*, which had been launched two years before. This in fact gave him a chance for a more full-blooded, certainly more telling, assault on the nation's conservative reflexes than anything in the cruder horror comics had. America became the Gaines target, America triumphal after winning the second world war and fresh from having delivered the world from the menace of communism in Korea; America suffering from an excess of, as one commentator put it: "piety, moralising, dullness, lack of humour and bad syntax".

MAD went after everything: advertising, my-country-right-or-wrong sentimentalism, consumerism, Doris Day films, crooked civic administration and mindless mediocrity in all its manifestations. After a few years of seeing themselves and the American way of life skewed by the magazine's satirical wit, the politicians might well have wished they had stuck with the severed heads, though, as with the later *Private Eye*, in Britain, it became something of a necessity for them to appear in *MAD* simply to know they were of some consequence in the world outside their own self esteem. Alfred E.

Neuman certainly went from strength to strength. He even appeared as a write-in candidate in the 1956 presidential election and his goofy face was drawn as the fifth presidential head on Mount Rushmore.

MAD's popularity spread overseas, with foreign editions subtly altered to eradicate what was too specifically American in appeal and to introduce features which pertained to the ethos of the target country, whether it was Britain, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands or Norway. In Britain the magazine's circulation of 60,000 by the early 1970s was, significantly, mainly among sixth forms and universities — and among some of the fathers of sixth formers who flitted it from their offspring before it went into the dustbin and read it on the way to work hidden between the pages of the *Financial Times*.

MAD carried no advertising: "How in heaven can you kick the hell out of Coca-Cola and then turn around and plug Pepsi?" demanded its proprietor. As time went on, critics saw a certain softening of the magazine's acerbity, though it could still administer visual shocks such as the one which hailed the end of the Vietnam war — Uncle Sam giving a V for Victory sign with bloodstained finger stumps.

A gourmet, Gaines fought a never-ending battle with his waistline that resulted in no pair of trousers ever fitting him at any given moment. It is doubtful that he cared. "I own three ties, which I wear as infrequently as possible," he said. "I wear my multicoloured tie to wine tastings because it's required. I wear my bright red tie with my orange jacket and my green tie with my brown jacket when I go to restaurants that insist on ties. My ties are narrow. I wear short socks, grey or blue, which I buy eight dozen at a time at Korvettes. I own one pair of cuffed slacks and one suit that fits me."

Eventually Gaines sold out to the Kinsey (later Warner) conglomerate. But he remained as *MAD*'s autonomous publisher. The magazine's monthly circulation remains at over one million.

Gaines is survived by his wife, Annie, two sons and one daughter.

LORENZO TANADA

Lorenzo Tanada, Philippines nationalist and legislator died in Manila on May 28 aged 93. He was born on August 10, 1898, in Gumaca, Quezon province.

he headed a team of prosecutors to try Japanese collaborators, including Jose P. Laurel, the wartime president under the Japanese occupation.

Tanada was elected to the senate in 1947 and served there for 24 years. The martial law era saw "Tanny" as he was nicknamed, in the frontline as a human rights lawyer fighting against the abuses of the Ferdinand Marcos regime. With congress abolished Tanada became an advocate of the "parliament of the streets" getting hosed down by water cannons and tear gassed in his old age.

After the assassination of the opposition leader Benigno Aquino, Tanada was a member of the "convenors group" that promoted the candidacy of Aquino's widow, Corazon, although he later opposed her acquiescence in allowing America to extend use of its military bases in the Philippines.

He is survived by his wife Expedita Ebale and seven children. One son, Wigberto Tanada, was re-elected to the senate in last month's election.



AIR COMMODORE EDWARD DONALDSON



for nearly 20 years.

Then in 1946 he hit the headlines when he set a new world air speed record, breaking the previous one held by the Germans by nearly 150 mph, when he flew a Meteor IV at 616 mph over the Channel near Littlehampton. Yet Teddy Donaldson was an unerring airline passenger. A classic example of a man who knew too much, he thought the worst of any sudden vibration and gloomily passed on his views to those around him.

He left the RAF in 1961,

rejecting an 11th hour offer

of promotion in favour of

becoming air correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph*. He

drove down Fleet Street in a

chauffeur-driven staff car

with flag flying for his interview with Lord Hartwell, to

continue his second career with similar panache.

Fleet Street, not short of its

own characters, quickly welcomed this flamboyant émigré from Whitehall — with his

monocle, anecdotes and piercing laugh. He moved around London by motor scooter, his old flying helmet identifiable in the traffic.

But his travelling tastes out

of town were more exotic.

After a stroke in 1977 (which

led to his second retirement a

year later) he confessed under

medical examination to owning an E-Type Jaguar. "At

what speed do you drive?" asked the doctor, bent over his notepad. "Well, it cruises nicely at 123 mph," Donaldson said. The doctor quickly told him to get rid of it.

He was born, the third of

four brothers, in Malaya,

where his Scottish father

worked for the civil service as a judge. Donaldson senior died young, however, leaving his wife, also a Scot, to return to this country with her child-

ren. Young Teddy was educated at King's School, Rochester, and Christ's Hospital, after which he went to McGill University in Canada.

When he signed up in

1931, the RAF was some-

what nonplussed to discover

that Donaldson had studied

agriculture. But he quickly dispelled any doubt about his aptitude by winning the RAF flying trophy within two years and repeating the performance 12 months later. In

1937 he led the RAF aerobatic team through impressive performances at the Hendon and Zürich air displays and one year later was given command of 151 Hurricane squadron, based at North Weald.

He led the squadron

during the Battle of France and in the subsequent fighting over the Channel, shooting down a variety of enemy aircraft in some hectic combat.

In one day, May 17,

1940, he shot down two

Stukas, dive bombers and

damaged a third, and on the

following day he destroyed an

Me 110 long-range fighter.

Four days later he claimed

two more Stukas and by the

end of the fighting over the

beaches had a share in a Ju

88 and another Me 110 to his

credit. He was awarded his

DSO for these fears and for

the leadership of the

squadron.

He was still flying as an air

correspondent. He was once

so dismissive of the American

Starfighter — an aircraft actually dubbed "the

"widowmaker" by the (post-

war) Luftwaffe pilots who flew it — that the makers threatened to sue him (on the

grounds that he had lost them

a contract) unless he flew it himself — a condition to which he immediately agreed.

Teddy Donaldson was

married and divorced three

times. He is survived by two

daughters from his first mar-

riage and a son from his sec-

ond.

It was the end of his combat career. But he had much useful wartime service to offer to the RAF and was appointed chief instructor at No 5 flying training school before crossing the Atlantic to command of 151 Hurricane

squadron, based at North

Weald.

In later years he com-

manded the Air Cader Corps and

Combined Cadet Forces from

1949 to 1951; this was fol-

lowed by appointment to

RAF Fassberg, West Ger-

many, from 1951 to 1954.

He was promoted air com-

mander in 1954 and served as

deputy commander Air

Forces Arabian Peninsula

from 1956 to 1958, then as

commandant of the RAF Fly-

ing College, Manby, before

retiring.

He was still flying as an air

correspondent. He was once

so dismissive of the American

Starfighter — an aircraft actu-

ally dubbed "the

"widowmaker" by the (post-

war) Luftwaffe pilots who flew it — that the makers threat-

ened to sue him (on the

grounds that he had lost them

a contract) unless he flew it himself — a condition to which he immediately agreed.

Teddy Donaldson was

married and divorced three

times. He is survived by two

daughters from his first mar-

riage and a son from his sec-

ond.

With silver, with a wreath of red and white roses running across it, interwoven with green and white foil, and rimmed with fringe round the bottom. The body and train were of Carneville silk.

Miss Wilkes was among the

finest dress ladies at Court.

UK stance assures third term for Delors

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN OSLO

JACQUES Delors seems assured of reappointment as president of the European Commission unopposed by Britain when European Community leaders meet in Lisbon at the end of this month — despite the anxiety that has seized the EC since Danish voters rejected the Maastricht treaty.

The former French finance minister received a ringing endorsement yesterday from Uffe Ellermann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, who a few days ago might have

Lamont calls for curb on EC centrists

Continued from page 1
warned: "The Commission continues to use existing treaties in an attempt to foist unacceptable laws on the United Kingdom." He criticised efforts by Christiane Scrivener, the tax commissioner, to raise the question of Britain's zero value-added tax rates saying: "It is simply no use commissioners becoming impatient because countries are rightly protective of their own powers to set tax rates." Mr Lamont urged the EC not to bully the Danes saying the result was "a salutary reminder of the continuing strength of national feeling throughout the Community".

The new Europe-wide scepticism about a centralised Community was reflected yesterday when in talks with Mr Major in Bonn, Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, accepted British plans to speed up enlargement of the EC by the earliest possible admission of Efta (European Free Trade Association) countries.

Major's hope, page 13
Letters, page 15

The Greenwich Waterfront Development Partnership,

launched yesterday by Greenwich council, local businesses, landowners and community groups wants to return the riverside to its



Past and present: Above, the view from the Isle of Dogs to Greenwich today, and below, the panorama captured by Canaletto in his oil painting 200 years ago

By DOUGLAS BROOM

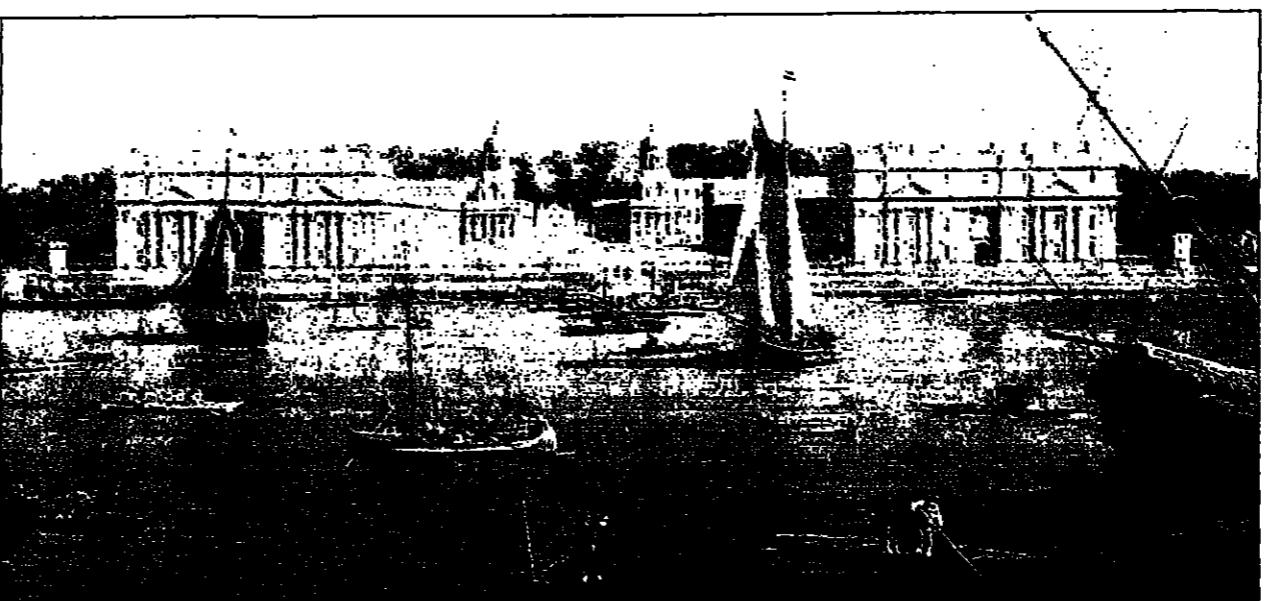
A VIEW of Greenwich which inspired Canaletto is to be restored in a project to improve seven miles of the south bank of the Thames from Deptford Creek to Thamsemead.

Workers at Canary Wharf and other buildings on the Isle of Dogs, east London, will be able to share the panorama captured by Canaletto 200 years before tower blocks came to dominate the view northwards from Inigo Jones' Queen's House.

Looking south from Island Gardens, as Canaletto did, many of the landmarks remain recognisable but modern eyesores and derelict sites have marred the view. Canaletto was deliberately wrong on one detail, however: he painted Queen's House much smaller than it really was simply because he loathed the building.

John Major is also informally bound by an assurance he delivered to Chancellor Kohl of Germany at the Maastricht summit last December that Britain would not veto the renewal of M Delors' appointment.

The Greenwich Waterfront Development Partnership,



golden age. By promoting sympathetic new developments the agency intends to restore not only Canaletto's but other classical views across the Thames downstream from Limehouse Reach. New buildings will have to comply with a strict design code and English

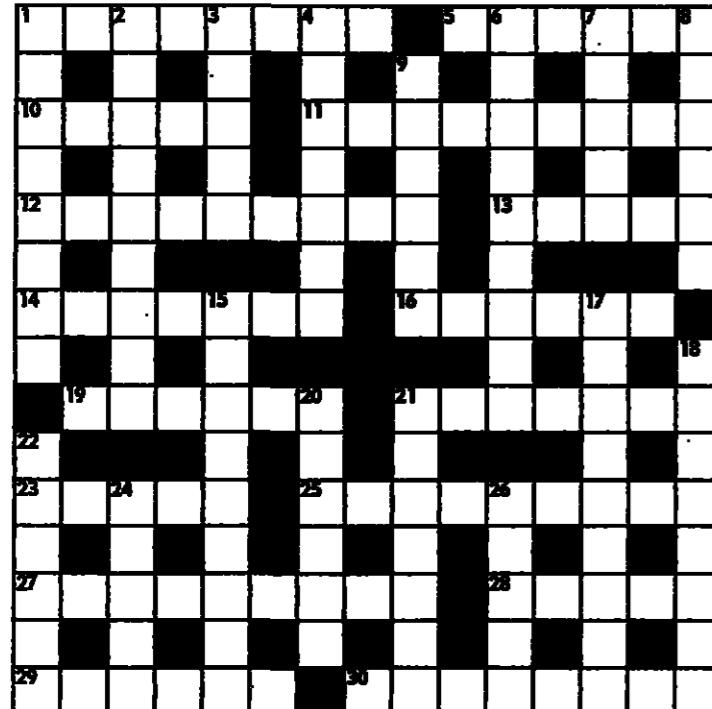
Heritage is to carry out a conservation study of the area, including a survey of all the historic buildings. Philip Davies of English Heritage

said the study would include Queen's House, Wren's Royal Naval College and Hawksmoor's Church of St Alfege.

"The old town centre represents a remarkable survival of Georgian and Victorian London," he said. "In the last decade or so heavy traffic, the economic decline of the riverside area and pressures from tourism have all combined to take their toll. The aim of the study is to ensure that this unparalleled heritage of buildings and their settings is restored to the highest standards so that Greenwich can resume its rightful place as one of the capital's most cherished architectural jewels."

The agency will implement the council's award-winning Greenwich Waterfront Strategy, published last year. Its remit will run from Woolwich Arsenal, with its collection of listed buildings thought to be by Vanbrugh and Hawksmoor, to the Thames Barrier.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,938



By Philip Howard

SACCADIC

a. Attracted to sugar
b. Twisting and jerky
c. Carrying a bag

SOUSENTENDU

a. An implication
b. A pig in clover
c. A person who
chastises

SUBDOLOUS

a. Sly
b. An under-servant
c. Paying by subscription

CONASCINATION

a. Becoming flesh

b. The act of patching

c. Complaining sarcastically

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE

C London (within N & S Circs) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736
National 737

National motorways..... 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-West England 742

Scotland 743

Northern Ireland 744

10 Horsepower (5).

11 To get engine going thrills a girl (4-5).

12 Old soldier in counter-revolution (9).

13 Many units initially within gun's range (5).

14 Can man sent to prison... (4,3).

16 A carpenter, buy supper here? (6).

19 Energetic person brings a lot of people back into the party (6).

21 Soldier's returned with a girl, a wife from overseas (7).

23 Receiver runs and loses the point — one-love (5).

25 Old clothing being worn, a short suit (9).

27 Hurry up and progress (4,5).

28 Newton's 'Principia' inspired suddenly — an apple contributed (5).

29 Trim a tree (6).

30 Tie providing both cold and warmth (4,4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,937

WEDGE SEPTEMBER

A A M A H O I O

S E N T I E N C E L I L A C

P T G C O N I L K

W H E R R Y H O R A T I U S

A F T R E D U T I O N

I N F A T U A T E D F R O G

S L B I N O N O D

T R A Y I L L A D V I S E D

G S O L E P

P A S S P O R T C R I M E A

A T R H M S D A R

A R O M A A U T H O R I S E

R A I L G R O U N D S M A N

N N I D O N Z N I

G R E E N S E B E L T E R E C T

HEARTH ENTRANCE

N E O A E U A

B R E A K W A T E R D A N E

O D L O M I T

B L U D G E O N I S C P O O

R R E N

S H E S S E S

C A S S E T T E H E E L

T R A D E

S T O O G E R E A D A B L E

R A Y N T I R I

S N A P S H O T Y E L L O W

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OTTAWA NEWS PAPERS LTD

A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next

Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

The southern half of England will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain but turning brighter during the morning. Along the east coast it will remain generally dull with some rain or drizzle. The best of the sunshine will be in the west of Scotland and northwest England, where there will also be the highest temperatures. Winds fresh or strong at times along the east coast. Outlook: unsettled with showers or rain in the South, bright in northwestern areas.

SUN Rain Max

Aberdeen 1.6 0.04 17

Angeles 1.6 0.04 17

Belfast 3.9 0.05 17

Birmingham 1.0 0.01 17

Bristol 0.9 0.05 17

Budapest 2.6 0.05 17

Cardiff 2.6 0.05 17

Chester 0.7 0.05 17

Coventry 0.7 0.05 17

Douglas 0.7 0.05 17

Eastbourne 1.2 0.05 17

Edinburgh 1.2 0.05 17

Falmouth 1.5 0.05 17

Folkestone 1.0 0.05 17

Glasgow 0.2 0.05 17

Greenwich 1.0 0.05 17

Leeds 1.0 0.05 17

Liverpool 0.9 0.05 17

London 0.9 0.05 17

Lowestoft 0.0 0.05 17

Manchester 0.0 0.05 17

Margate 0.0 0.05 17

Nottingham 0.0 0.05 17

Penzance 0.0 0.05 17

Perth 0.0 0.05 17

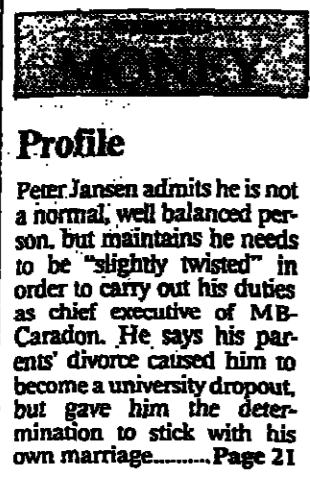
Portsmouth 0.0 0.05 17

Sheffield 0.0 0.05 17

Southampton 0.0 0.05 17

Swindon 0.0 0.05 17

Weymouth 0.0 0.05 17



Profile

Peter Jansen admits he is not a normal, well balanced person, but maintains he needs to be "slightly twisted" in order to carry out his duties as chief executive of MB-Caradon. He says his parents' divorce caused him to become a university dropout, but gave him the determination to stick with his own marriage..... Page 21

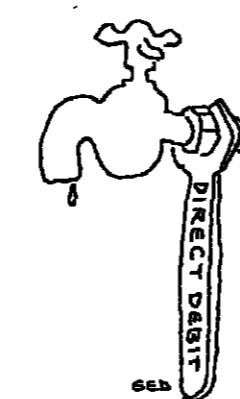


Spread effect

Investors in unit trusts may suffer a fall in the value of holdings, even in a rising market, because of the effect of the 5 per cent "spread" in price, the investment ombudsman warns..... Page 25

On the warpath

Firms who make markets in second-hand endowment plans are side-stepping rules governing profit projections. Fimbra, the intermediaries' regulatory authority, is on the warpath..... Page 24



Letters Page 26

Funds of life

People buying their first home should not mortgage themselves up to the hilt. Alison Hunter, a first-time buyer, says there must be leeway for rate rises, falling property values and changes in personal circumstances. The scarcity of rental accommodation and the high price of motor insurance are other headaches facing young people, who are the subject of the first of a five-part series on the way people's financial priorities change as they get older..... Page 23



Euro boost

European investment benefits are improving, thanks to economic recovery, continuing integration and the opening of eastern Europe. Two new trusts hope to reap the rewards..... Page 25



Secondhand trade

The sale of second-hand endowment policies is providing Britain with a valuable export trade to Germany, Sweden, Israel, Hong Kong and the Middle East..... Page 24

Tax losses tempt bids for Canary Wharf

BY ANGELA MACKAY

TAX losses incurred by Olympia & York's Canary Wharf project are proving a big attraction for the half dozen investors interested in buying the £1.5 billion Docklands scheme from administrators.

The tax losses, of capital allowances likely to exceed £150 million, are a draw for companies such as Hanson, which uses elaborate tax engineering to maximise profits.

A spokesman for Hanson said talks were taking place. The group is also considering buying Canary Wharf in a joint venture with Bechtel, one of the world's biggest construction companies.

P&O has also been mentioned as a possible bidder.

Canary Wharf is 14 per cent let and generates over £10 million. The administrators said they had frozen all incentive payments to tenants relating to their old leases and stopped all construction work on fitting out of offices.

Texaco, which has reserved the best part of two buildings on Westferry Circus, said it was "watching developments closely" but was still on target to move in August.

One week into their work, the administrators said they would appoint property agents and valuers early next week.

Ernest & Young has met Lord Wakeham, leader of the House of Lords, who advised that it negotiate directly with individual government departments about relocation to Docklands by the end of 1993. Lord Wakeham said the government was adamant that either O&Y or a buyer of Canary Wharf honour the agreement to pay £400 million towards a Jubilee Line extension.

How not to plan, page 14

Key syndicates suffer £948m deficit

Lloyd's names fear even higher losses

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

LLOYD'S names fear that their losses from syndicates involved in the excess-of-loss reinsurance spiral will be even more disastrous than the previous worst-case projections suggested.

With most of the results for the 1989 year of account now in, the 15 syndicates at the heart of the spiral are estimated to have notched up total losses of £948 million, about half the expected total market loss for the year.

The syndicates provided reinsurance for other syndicates and have had to pick up the bill for a string of catastrophe losses such as the Piper Alpha oil platform disaster in 1988. However, the flow of claims appears to have accelerated over the past year, and forecasts for the eventual loss are being increased.

Some of the names on the spiral syndicates have reacted angrily to news of Lloyd's scheme to raise £500 million from the membership to strengthen its financial security. Lloyd's announced on Thursday that each name will next month be charged an average of £20,000 a head as a contribution to the central fund. This represents a levy of 1.66 per cent on their underwriting capacity for each of the 1990, 1991 and 1992 years of account.

The funds will be drawn from names' funds held at Lloyd's and will be used to boost the central fund to £1 billion. However, many suffering names believe that Lloyd's is unfair to pass the entire cost of beefing up the security of the market on to the membership.

One name described the

levy plan as "about the most cynical gesture the council could have made". Charles Sturge, the joint editor of the *Chatter: Directory of Lloyd's of London 1992* and also a name, said of the levy: "I don't think the names will wear it."

The levy has been timed to ensure that Lloyd's has no problems when it reports to the trade department on its solvency in September. Lloyd's is likely to face a shortfall of several hundred millions of pounds this summer because of names being unable or unwilling to pay losses. The market is expected to report a loss of £2 billion for 1989, when the results for that year are announced this month. Lloyd's is also looking at a feasibility of a scheme to limit the losses of the names worst hit by the 1988, 1989 and 1990 losses.

Alfred Dell-Steinberg, the chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group of names, said: "To announce the levy before the rescue plan is, from a PR point of view, another Lloyd's disaster."

The levy was welcomed by Mark Farmer, the chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members. He said: "If Lloyd's faced possible solvency difficulties, then they were correct to make absolutely sure than Lloyd's will pass solvency and face no threat to its continuing business."



Prepared for the worst: Susan Hampshire, the actress and Lloyd's name

Tebbit and DTI fail to stop suit by Lonrho

BY OUR CITY STAFF

LONRHO, the international trading group, can sue Norman Tebbit, the former Trade Secretary, and the Department of Trade and Industry for alleged negligence over the 1985 takeover battle for the House of Fraser stores group.

Three judges unanimously dismissed a bid by Mr Tebbit and the DTI to have the action "struck out" on the grounds that it was "doomed to failure".

Lord Justice Dillon, sitting with Lord Justice Stocker and Sir Michael Kerr, said Lonrho - which alleges it was wrongly locked out of the battle for Fraser, resulting in its acquisition by the Al-Fayed brothers - had an arguable, though "difficult", case, which should be allowed to proceed to trial.

Mr Tebbit and the DTI were refused leave to appeal to the Lords and ordered to pay Lonrho's legal costs, estimated at more than £50,000.

Lonrho claims that, at the time of the takeover, Mr Tebbit and the DTI failed in their duty under private law to release the company from an undertaking that limited it to a 30 per cent holding in Fraser. The undertaking had been imposed during an earlier Lonrho takeover attempt that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission felt might operate against the public interest.

In February 1985, the MMC cleared the way for Lonrho to bid for Fraser, but it was not released from its undertaking until March, by which time the Al-Fayed brothers had already acquired control.

Lonrho claims that, because of the "dilatoriness" of Mr Tebbit and the DTI, it lost the chance of making a bid that might have proved extremely profitable.

BP to cut 350 jobs in Scotland by closing former Britoil office

BY MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

BRITISH Petroleum is to close the former Britoil headquarters in Glasgow, with the loss of up to 350 jobs in a move that sparked immediate protest from the Scottish national lobby.

The Glasgow office of BP Exploration will be closed within the next 12 to 18 months, the company said, and would involve the transfer of 300 of the 650 jobs to Aberdeen, where it already employs a workforce of 3,500. Most of the rest will be made redundant.

The protest was slammed by John Swinney, the Scottish National Party's energy spokesman, who described it as a particular shock because Britoil names had, if anything, expected an improvement in the situation after the cancellation of a recent cash call.

The Britoil losses are the subject of an independent en-

quiry as a "complete betrayal" of promises given to the Scottish people by BP.

At the time of its £2.27 billion acquisition of Britoil in 1988, BP said it would make Glasgow the business headquarters of its combined British oil and gas exploration and production interests, with Aberdeen continuing as operations headquarters.

BP is hurt by suggestions that it has reneged on any promises. The group employs 8,500 staff in Scotland, of which 5,000, before the cuts, are with BP Exploration. This compares with 5,500 Britoil staff prior to the bid.

John Brown, BP Explora-

tion chief executive officer, said the decision was a "natural move which will bring together in one place all the skills needed for the next phase of North Sea development and secure our future".

Analysts suggested that the Glasgow closure could involve a gross saving of £50 million a year. However, there would be a £25 million, one-off, exceptional write-off.

BP Oil Co is still considering withdrawing from branded petrol marketing in California and southeast Florida. Legal requirements call for a six-month advance notification of such a withdrawal.

Buy now, pay later... and later

By RODNEY HOBSON

ONLY 3 per cent of firms receive payments on time and the position is getting worse, according to Trade Indemnity, the independent credit insurance group.

On average payments are received 27 days late. About a quarter of all bills are settled more than 30 days after the stipulated date.

The figures are contained in a survey of financial trends conducted in March. Trade Indemnity intends to conduct similar surveys every quarter.

The results are supported by a survey of 1,900 managing directors by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company. Tony Bushell, director for risk management sales, says: "Nine out of ten managing

directors have seen no improvement in payment terms over the past year despite government attempts to encourage prompt payment."

Clive Brand, senior economist at Trade Indemnity, says: "Companies had more than £50,000 outstanding for at least a month while some companies with turnover of less than £1 million had long outstanding debts of more than £100,000."

The construction and engineering industries were hit particularly badly with the average bill paid 31 days late.

Trade Indemnity says most companies are tightening up on credit management, mainly by making increased use of credit information from banks and reference agencies. They are also resorting more frequently to debt collection agencies.

Dun & Bradstreet says seven out of ten managing directors of British companies want legislation to enforce a statutory right to interest on late payments.



Brand: "vicious circle"

directors have seen no improvement in payment terms over the past year despite government attempts to encourage prompt payment."

Clive Brand, senior economist at Trade Indemnity, says: "Nine out of ten managing

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Electricity watchdog acts on pool price complaints

By MARTIN WALLER

PROFESSOR Stephen Littlechild, the regulator of the electricity industry, is cracking down on the two power generators, National Power and PowerGen, and on their ability to withdraw plant from use. The initiative is part of his attempts to reform the electricity "pool" or spot market.

In December, Professor Littlechild said he would take action over anti-competitive practices by the generators that served to manipulate prices charged for electricity in the pool. Complaints had included allegations that plan had been deliberately withdrawn from the system to drive the price higher.

The Office of Electricity Regulation (Offer) wants to amend the licences held by the generators and the state-owned Nuclear Electric, to require them to give information on which stations they plan to operate and which to close or make unavailable. It also wants them to make public forecasts covering the next year of operation of each of their stations.

National Power and PowerGen would in addition have to give reasons to Professor Littlechild for any closures; he could appoint an independent assessor to rule on whether a closure was reasonable. Generators would therefore have to justify bringing plant on or off line and could not do so merely to manipulate the pool price.

Both companies professed themselves pleased with Professor Littlechild's proposals, which were made after extensive discussions with the industry. They have been published for a four-week consultation period.

The City did not see the proposals as a strong threat to future profitability and the companies' share prices edged ahead.

Professor Littlechild said that if the information provided by the generators indicated anti-competitive behaviour, he had the power under the law to act as necessary. Professor Littlechild's ruling was welcomed by the Major Energy Users' Council, which has campaigned for cheaper energy prices. "This should help to provide a more competitive market and a more genuine pool spot market, less susceptible to manipulation," it said.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Maxwell paper chase
There is no pot of gold in Liechtenstein, and the Maxwell Foundation is well strapped for cash. What assets the trust has will not, claims the financier who runs it, flow to the Maxwell siblings...
Business - The Sunday Times tomorrow

Dowty Group comfortably beats its defence estimate for TI bid

By COLIN CAMPBELL

DOWTY Group, facing a Wednesday deadline in the £519.4 million hostile takeover battle launched in April by TI Group, has reported pre-tax profits of £32.7 million for the year to the end of March — comfortably above a defence estimate that 1992 profits would not be less than £29 million.

The 1992 result was boosted by inclusion of £3.7 million of compensation profits from the defence ministry after the earlier cancellation of a contract. Latest profits compare with an annual £60.6 million reported by Dowty for the 1991 financial year.

As expected, Dowty has declared an unchanged final dividend of 5.6p per share, making an unchanged 9.2p per share payment for the year, paid out of net earnings of 8.2p per share.

Roy Roberts, the Dowty chairman, said: "We believe that the strong performance in the final quarter of 1991-92 will continue and that the group, which has suffered from the effects of the recession, has adjusted its cost structure and is well placed to benefit from the expected improvement in trading conditions".

Dowty's 1992 results were brought forward from an original publication date at the end of June in order that shareholders could determine for themselves the make-up of Dowty's 1992 performance.

TI Group, which has bid 8.5p for 15, with a cash alternative of 17.46p, a Dowty share, says Dowty's statement "gives no comfort as to the underlying sustainable profits of the

group under Dowty management".

Christopher Lewington, the chairman of TI, added that Dowty's results "tell us nothing about order books, little about cash flow and raise serious questions about the future of this business under its existing board".

Mr Roberts told shareholders Dowty has carried out important reorganisation



Fighting on: Bruce Ralph (left), the chief executive of Dowty Group, with Roy Roberts, the chairman

plans and investments that position it well for future profitability.

Group turnover was £694.5 million (£768.8 million), of which the aerospace division generated £286.4 million (£316.1 million). Profits from this division fell from £41.3 million to £27.8 million.

An operating margin of 9.7 per cent achieved against the background of an adverse

change in the sales mix provides a firm base for higher profitability when normal civil sales volumes have been restored, he added.

Potential customers postponed capital spending during the recession and turnover within the information technology division eased for the current year," Mr Roberts said.

Earlier this week TI Group bought in the market a shade under 10 per cent of Dowty.

Tempus, page 21

BAe pulls out of Athens project

By OUR CITY STAFF

BRITISH Aerospace has pulled out of a five-member consortium bidding for the financing and construction of a new \$1.5 billion Athens international airport.

Informed sources suggested that BAe withdrew at the end of April because it "could not meet the financial conditions" set for the project. But British sources in Athens linked the withdrawal to a general decision by BAe not to involve itself in such projects in future.

A BAe spokeswoman in London denied that financial conditions had anything to do with the group's decision. "BAe have no such internal problems," she said. "We are involved in, and we look at, a lot of projects. If the new Athens airport was looked at, and the company decided that this was one of the areas not to proceed."

The airport, to be built near Spata, 15 miles east of Athens, will be one of the biggest in Europe. Both it and new roads connecting it to central Athens are due to be completed by 1996.

The airport's construction will be funded by the consor-

tium that builds it, with only a small participation from the state. The Greeks recently announced plans to introduce a special tax on air travel to help raise finance.

The airport will initially have one runway and handle 20 million passengers a year, double the capacity of the existing airport at Hellenikon, which will close as soon as the Spata airport begins operations. Eventually, Spata will have three runways and a capacity of 50 million passengers a year. Others in BAe's consortium included Ballast Nedam, Schiphol Airport, Narco and Ameec. Consortium still bidding for the project include Hochsiedt of Germany, Lockheed Air Terminal and Société Auxiliaire d'Enterprises of France.

Salomon Brothers, the American securities house, is the Greek government's financial consultant for the project.

Other self-financing infrastructural projects in Greece include a metropolitan railway in Salonica, a bridge between the Peloponnese and central Greece and an Athens motorway.

US jobless at highest for 8 years

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE White House yesterday sought to reassure America that economic recovery is still under way, despite alarming figures that showed unemployment surging to 7.2 per cent in May, its highest for nearly eight years.

Wall Street economists had expected unemployment would hold steady at April's 7.2 per cent. Martin Fitzwater, the administration spokesman, acknowledged the rise came as a surprise, but attributed part of it to students joining the workforce. But he said nobody questioned recovery was still in progress and it was going to continue to recover in positive fashion.

The deterioration in the labour market in May reflected a 330,000 rise in the number of people seeking work and a slight fall in the number of jobs. The unemployed total rose by 349,000 to 9.5 million. President George Bush, aware of the political damage a faltering recovery would have on Thursday spoke of his problems arising from America's "stagnant, anaemic recovery". Before the recession began in 1990, America's unemployment rate was 5.2 per cent.

build on ground already gained this week as investors switched to the German currency after the Danish electorate's surprise rejection of the Maastricht treaty. The pound retreated further against the mark, dropping briefly below DM 2.91 in mid-afternoon.

Dr Schlesinger emphasised that current wage deals were not consistent with the Bundesbank's goal of significantly reducing inflation.

The stronger mark, and the likelihood of German interest rates remaining high, reduces the scope for Britain and other EC countries to lower their domestic interest rates in the near future. Indeed, Denmark and Italy have been forced to raise key rates this week.

The German upper house yesterday rejected the government's plan to reform the Bundesbank's policy-making council by cutting the number of regional central bank to nine from the current 11. But the lower house passed the reform for the second time on Thursday, enabling it to override the upper house on a simple majority.

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1. Fill in the coupon signed by all shareholders and send by fax to 01223 473 600. Ham Bro Clearing Ltd, Cardiff address below, has the right to check to see if the relevant share certificates have a form of transfer on the back. If there is a form then the registered holder is to sign where it is relevant. If not, then a copy of your certificate, Ham Bro Clearing will issue a separate form which is to be signed by the registered holder(s). Your return cannot be sold until the signed transfer form has been returned safe.

PRIVATISATIONS

British Telecom (1st issue only), British Airways, Rolls Royce, BAA & for bonus, British Steel, TSB & for bonus, Abbey National, BP, PowerGen, Scot Power, Nat Power, Scot Hydro Electricity

12 Regional Electricity Companies and 10 Regional Water Companies

Please sell the following securities

STOCKS TO BE SOLD AMOUNT BALANCE (if required) SIGNATURE OF REGISTERED HOLDER

Wellcome knocked by fears about share sale

THE shares in Wellcome fell 13p to 945p as the success of its forthcoming worldwide share sale was thrown into doubt by talk that the American fund managers will be unable to absorb the issue. Reports from New York suggested that the sheer size of the issue was likely to deter American investors from taking Wellcome shares when they are offered for sale on July 6.

The shares are being offered simultaneously to investors in London, New York and Tokyo. But Robert Fleming, the merchant bank handling the issue on behalf of Wellcome, dismissed the reports out of hand. The bank will carefully monitor demand for the shares and will only sell what it thinks the stock market can comfortably absorb.

The Wellcome Trust will reduce its 73.5 per cent stake to under 50 per cent and will keep only 25 per cent. Wellcome is probably best known on both sides of the Atlantic for Retovir, its anti-Aids treatment.

But Retovir accounts for only a small part of its portfolio of drugs. Its best-selling treatment is Zovirax, used in the treatment of herpes and shingles. Meanwhile, the rest

of the equity market put in another lacklustre performance with share prices closing near their lowest points of the day after Wall Street opened lower.

The FT-SE 100 index finished 13.4 points lower at 2,668.5 in thin, scrappy business that saw only 536 million shares change hands. Government securities halved earlier falls of 1% at the longer end, cheered by talk of a cut in American interest rates after the American employment figures.

There was the smell of burned fingers among the arbitrageurs as Lloyds Bank, 1p firmer at 436p, withdrew

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Property Partnerships increases dividend

PROPERTY Partnerships, the East Anglian property and hotel group, is raising its dividend to 7p (6.5p) a share for the year, after a proposed final payout of 4.5p (4.35p), despite a 14.4 per cent decline in full-year profits. The depressed conditions gripping the property and hotel industry pushed pre-tax profits down to £1.76 million in the year to end March, against £2.06 million last year, as total turnover fell from £6.42 million to £6.24 million.

Net rental income climbed from £1.68 million to £1.91 million, but hotel turnover fell from £4.74 million to £4.33 million. The company said the recession resulted in very severe trading conditions at its two Norwich hotels. Earnings slipped to 13p a share (13.42p). Net asset value was 348p a share (355p). The shares stayed at 200p.

Guerin for sentencing

JAMES Guerin, former deputy chairman of Ferranti International, will be sentenced in a Pennsylvania court on Tuesday after pleading guilty to eight counts of fraud and arms smuggling. Mr Guerin was charged by federal authorities last year of complicity in a \$1 billion fraud. In 1987, Ferranti merged with Mr Guerin's company, International Signal & Control, and brought Mr Guerin on to the board. Two years later, accountants discovered a £215 million hole in Ferranti's assets.

EFM asset value falls

NET asset value at EFM Income Trust, a split-capital investment trust that was launched in April last year after a placing that raised £14.4 million, fell to 47.5p a share, against an issue price of 65p a share. The trust, managed by Edinburgh Fund Managers, reports pre-tax revenue of £1.13 million in its first full year, to April 30, on total income of £1.38 million. Earnings stood at 5.6p a share for the period. A recommended final dividend of 1.275p gives a total payout of 4.875p for the year.

Carr's Milling rises

MAINTAINED volumes and lower bakery distribution costs helped Carr's Milling Industries lift pre-tax profits from £52,000 to £125,000 in the six months to end-February, on turnover ahead from £37.6 million to £38.9 million. The Carlisle-based milling, baking and animal feed-making group achieved the advance in the face of intense competition in the flour milling and baking businesses. Earnings stood at 1.5p a share (0.8p deficit). The interim dividend is maintained at 1p. The shares rose 5p to 75p.

Vestel plans cash call

VESTEL Elektronik Sanayi ve Ticaret, the Turkish electronics unit of Poly Peck International, plans a rights and bonus issue to increase its share capital by 45 per cent. If approval is given by Turkey's Capital Markets Board, Vestel will issue 81 billion lire (£6.5 million) of shares in the rights issue and 40.5 billion lire of bonuses. The company reported a 13 per cent decline in first-quarter profits to 9.6 billion lire this year. Poly Peck administrators plan to sell a 25 per cent stake in Vestel to a foreign company.

WALL STREET

June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6
Friday	Monday	Friday	close
AMP Inc. 60% 60%	Enron Inc. 4% 4%	Oracle Systems 15% 15%	Orvis Energy Co. 20% 20%
AMR Corp. 64% 64%	Engelhard Corp. 37% 37%	PNC Financial 50% 50%	Pearce Inc. 82% 81%
Abbott 31% 31%	Ericsson Corp. 42% 42%	Pearce Inc. 82% 81%	Pearce Inc. 82% 81%
American (H) 17% 17%	Edith Corp. 29% 29%	PacifiCorp 22% 22%	PacifiCorp 22% 22%
Amoco 44% 44%	Edison Corp. 62% 62%	Panhandle East 18% 18%	Panhandle East 18% 18%
Amoco Prod. 44% 44%	Entergy Corp. 34% 34%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%
Alcan Aluminum 21% 22%	Federal Corp. 41% 41%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%
Alcan Standard 60% 60%	Federal-Mogul 31% 31%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%
Alcoa Co of Am 70% 70%	First Chicago 33% 33%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%
Alcoa Hldgs 44% 44%	First Chicago 33% 33%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%
Alameda Hldgs 44% 44%	First Chicago 33% 33%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%
Almeria 40% 40%	First Chicago 33% 33%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%
Amoco B Power 32% 31%	First Chicago 33% 33%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%
Amcor 27% 27%	First Chicago 33% 33%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%
Amcor Bldg 71% 71%	First Chicago 33% 33%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%
Amcor Bldg 71% 71%	First Chicago 33% 33%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%
Amcor Bldg 71% 71%	First Chicago 33% 33%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%	Parke-Davis 18% 18%

BUSINESS PROFILE: Peter Jansen

Still just a Maastricht man at heart

Carol Leonard goes right to the soul of the man who guides the fortunes of the MB-Cardon group

Almost all leading businessmen have obsessive personalities, according to Peter Jansen, the chief executive of MB-Cardon, the £1.4 billion group once known as Metal Box — and he is, he admits, no exception.

"You simply do not end up in a job like this if you are a well balanced, normal individual," he says. "I don't believe you can do this sort of job unless you have something lacking. Some of the things you have to do, like making people redundant, you just cannot square completely. I think you have to be slightly twisted to do these things."

It is a statement, nevertheless, that will astonish many of those who claim to have known Peter Jansen for years. For Jansen is, if the truth be known, everything that he pretends not to be.

That pretence is so convincing that even those individuals who have known him for 20 years or

more, who have worked alongside him on a daily basis and who are intelligent, successful professionals in their own right, have, in a way, been fooled.

Jansen laughs when I tell him of the reputation he has with even his closest colleagues. Anthony Hitchens, MB-Cardon's chairman and acknowledged as the other half of Jansen's corporate double act for the past 14 years, dismisses his reserve as "Dutch correctness", and says he is a man who gets very upset if things are not done correctly and denies that he has any temper. "He is always very controlled," says Hitchens. Jansen says: "He and I are a couple."

Hitchens concedes that Jansen is warm "underneath" but more readily describes him as "very tough, very intelligent, with clear, logical thought processes" and a large — 6ft 1ins — dark appearance that can make him seem somewhat stern. Hitchens says: "He is ruthless, he will not tolerate second rate

you do need other people around you that you trust."

Jansen describes himself as something of a loner: "I don't think I was ever one of the lads, there are times when I need to be on my own, to think." But he claims similar relationships with two other MB-Cardon directors, also ex-Redland, Daniel Cohen and Tim Walker. "I simply couldn't have done it without them," he says. "I would have gone off the rails. They tell me when I've gone too far. They stop me making mistakes of excess. I can become fanatical."

Jansen's gratitude to them is genuine. For it is the influence that they exert over him, consciously or not, that has transformed him into the tough, controlled, awesome figure that Hitchens so accurately describes. But while Hitchens' description is correct, remove those externally applied controls and an entirely different creature would evolve — shy, emotional and with



Warm underneath — but ruthless when necessary: Peter Jansen relaxes at home

an explosive temper. "I try to control it but sometimes, when no one is looking, I throw things at the wall," Jansen says. He has been known to lose control when confronted with *petit fonctionnaires*. "I do what comes naturally. I shout, I may swear, I try to think of things to say that are really hurtful and then I regret it."

The only facet of Hitchens' description with which Jansen will nod in agreement is that he does get very upset if things are not done correctly. He is also aware of the rather daunting image he projects. "Some people do find me

a bit forbidding and so I have developed a technique to try and introduce some humour. That can confuse people."

One can imagine their confusion. For Jansen admires that, at heart, he regards business as a wholly serious matter. He speaks about it with the zealously of a convert. "I find a lot of things amusing," he says. He is a fan of Tommy Cooper, Jack Benny and Bob Hope. "But I don't think anything about business is funny. The fact is I'm paid to make sure this business is a success, for the shareholders and the people in it

and that is a big responsibility. You cannot escape that and therefore you are not free to follow your own indulgences" — and so yes, I do think you have a duty to do things in a certain way. This is the Dutch Calvinist coming out.

Whatever the reasoning behind Jansen's business approach, it has been undeniably successful. MB-Cardon has just become a constituent of the FT-SE 100 Index and the value of Jansen's own stake in Cardon demonstrates what he has achieved for its shareholders. His shareholding in the Twyford bathrooms-to-Mira group multi

plied from £150,000 in 1986 — "I increased the mortgage on my house from £75,000 to £225,000, it was every penny that we had" — to £16 million after Metal Box launched its bid for Cardon in 1988.

A condition of that bid was that Jansen would become group chief executive. Jansen, who still has £8 million invested in the business, has come a long way. Home is now an eight-bedroom house in Surrey and he owns a Bentley, a Mercedes sports, a Golf GTI, a 1960 Daimler plus a company Granada. "I'm a car nut, but I'm against company cars. I think senior executives in this country are under-paid and over-perked. It would be much cleaner to pay a decent salary and let them buy their own cars."

He was born in Amsterdam in 1940, the eldest of two children. His parents emigrated to South Africa when he was nine.

His father started a successful clothing business and although he and Jansen's mother eventually divorced — "They began divorcing when I was 12 and finished when I was 18" — the family lived a "cosy" existence, socialising with the English rather than the Afrikaans community.

Jansen, unable to speak English when he arrived, was educated at a good local school, but was once nearly expelled. "I went through a period of wildness as a reaction to my parents' divorce, I was attention seeking, I guess".

He then went to Cape Town university where he read civil engineering, but left in the third and final year. "I had a great time playing rugby and hockey but I just couldn't get down to the work. It was a small rebellion. My father and I had a falling out over it, for a couple of years, which was very painful. I went to work to earn some money to go back and read law but I got sucked into a career. It's been one of my biggest regrets that I didn't go back."

That career began in the Paris office of Pfizer, the pharmaceutical company which is where Jansen met his French wife, Francoise, the mother of his three sons, Tony, 28, Philip, 25 and Christopher, 21. He recalls "a very sensitive

young French person being thrown together with this rough Dutchman, roughed up in South Africa. It was tough on her. I was a bit like a wild man really. I was so committed to work. But we kept it together and over time it settled down."

Jansen's determination to make his marriage a success was, he says, fuelled by a desire to demonstrate to his father that he could make it succeed. His determination to better his parents' marital record, belies a keen interest in women. He could not, he says work with a secretary he found sexually attractive. Jansen, in fact, is interested in and likes most people. He is generous, giving anonymously to several causes, and is an unexpectedly sensitive and emotional man.

Despite the confidence that comes with success Jansen, once painfully shy, still avoids situations where he will meet new people. Last year, when this interview was first scheduled, he cancelled it because it was to have been conducted by another journalist from *The Times*. "I'd never met her before — I couldn't have done it. I wouldn't have been myself. It might have been a disaster."

He does not like to encounter the unexpected. He goes to great lengths to think everything through before, and after, it happens. He admits to being a worrier, to occasional sleepless nights, and he tells me how he "rehearsed" for this interview for weeks beforehand. He is interested in horoscopes and handwriting analysis and he insists new recruits at MB-Cardon undergo psychometric testing.

With age he is, he says, becoming more emotional and more Dutch. "I guess you return to your roots. I've just bought a flat in Maastricht. I love England, but I'd like to die there."

As we part I ask one last question. Does he ever drink? "Oh yes, lots," he replies with enthusiasm. "Lots", I ask. "Well," he says. "It's all part of my obsessive personality. Every now and again I drink far too much."

He smiles helplessly, his honesty is endearing, and he then knows that he has grown on me too.

An each-way win for Midland

LLOYD'S unexpected withdrawal leaves Midland's shareholders with two choices. They must either accept the final 480p a share offer from HSBC, the holding company of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, or sell in the market. (The increase in HSBC's bid earlier this week has ruled out independence.) Each has its attractions.

Midland's shares fell 21p yesterday to 446p as the arbitrageurs caught a cold. Despite this, the price has doubled from its low point of 205p last year. Readers who followed Tempus recommendations last August and in February have made a handsome gain. They may choose to switch into other recovery plays in the banking sector, particularly National Westminster.

Otherwise, they should consider the attractions of HSBC's offer, which even Lloyds Bank said yesterday is

a full one. The terms of 120 HSBC shares and 665 in cash or bonds for every 100 Midland shares represents an 86 per cent increase on the value of Midland shares before the merger talks were announced, and a 415 per cent increase in income.

HSBC is also offering Midland shareholders a substantial premium to net assets. The net worth of the bond and share combination is 349p a share, a rise of 17 per cent from Midland's current net asset value of 299p.

The enlarged HSBC should offer attractive growth prospects. The reduction of losses in Australia and Marine Midland in America, coupled with the expected recovery in Midland, should boost group pre-tax profits from £1.25 billion this year to £1.6 billion next. The prospective p/e ratio is then less than 11. Worth considering, despite fears about the voluntary

ity of HSBC's share price on the Hong Kong stock market.

Dowty/TI

BY SUNSET on Wednesday, Dowty Group should be in TI's lap. Before the 1pm acceptance deadline, Dowty shareholders need only ask where has Dowty gone over the past five years, and where is it going over the next five?

TI's 8-for-15 paper offer, with a cash alternative of 174.67p, looks generous even after Dowty's publication yesterday of "surprise" 1992 results showing a pre-tax profit of £32.7 million, equivalent to net earnings of 8.2p a share. The surprise was the extent by which they exceeded earlier downbeat City forecasts that only about £20 million pre-tax was likely for 1991. Dowty's outcome of £60.6 million, and that they comfortably exceeded the not less than £29 million estimate put

out in Dowty's defence.

Dowty's profits should recover in 1993; analysts are variously forecasting anywhere between £40 million and £50 million. The debate turns on whether such a rate of increase is sustainable. The upper profits estimate would still not see Dowty back to 1987 profit levels, when pre-tax profits were £55.7 million.

Changes in market capitalisation over the past five years, with TI up from £335 million to £1.15 billion and Dowty down from £479 million to £396 million by this April, speak for themselves.

TI sprang into the bidding on April 23 like a hare, with an offer that it did not take too long to declare final. This week, TI bought 10 per cent of its target's shares in the market. Dowty, by contrast, has been like a tortoise, but there seems little reason to believe that the old fable will prove true in this battle.

WEEK ENDING Martin Waller

Vikings and Danes hold Europe ransom

I THINK I can furnish an explanation. Denmark, as any seasoned traveller will tell you, is a small, pretty country, north of Germany, which is almost entirely inhabited by drunken Swedes.

Until recently, you needed a prescription from three doctors and an act of Parliament to order a half of lager in Sweden. Even now, in today's more relaxed regime, Swedes looking for some serious drinking slip across to Copenhagen or hop on one of the many luxurious ferries crossing the Kattegat.

No one, in all honesty, can tell one Scandinavian from another. Those 25,000 Danes who voted against Maastricht are therefore clearly a terrible case of mistaken identity.

The last time the Swedes caused the Germans such an upset was in the time of Gustav II Adolphus. Germany has come on a little since then, and the Germans have now cemented their control of the beaches of Europe with the purchase of Thomas Cook from the Midland Bank. Previously you had to fight them for your share of

the beach umbrella — now they will make you pay them for the privilege first.

Meteorologists pondering the fate of the Earth at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro have uncovered an extraordinary correlation. Changing weather and widespread drought are caused by executive share options granted to the men who run the water industry in England and Wales, not by increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere or tidal patterns in the Pacific. Nothing else can explain their elevation into this week's hot figures.

Liechtenstein is a rich, mountainous land the size and shape of a crumpled pocket handkerchief discarded by a careless traveller crossing the border between Switzerland and Austria. Miracles are clearly taking place there beyond the scope of even this column to unravel. The ghost of Robert Maxwell still walks the panelled halls of Vaduz bankers, distributing largesse to his nearest and dearest. If the testimony of the accountants

scouring his crashed empire is to be believed.

Maxwell may not have taken it with him, but the old crook has apparently stashed much of it way beyond the reach of his creditors and his impoverished pensioners.

When Maxwell disappeared over the side of the Lady Ghislaine his liabilities well exceeded his assets, a position shared by a growing band of people. A study has shown that anything up to 2 million people owe more on

their mortgages than their homes are worth.

A fair few thousand of those are going to find themselves homeless and obliged to join the new age travellers unless something is done.

The government is beating the building societies about the head with all available sticks, but to no avail.

Meanwhile, Mr Major is

also still pondering the future of Canary Wharf.

In the Old South, recalcitrant slaves were shipped downriver to less healthy climates; in these times it falls to the civil servants, which is progress of a kind.

It falls to me to suggest a modest proposal. Decant the travellers and the homeless into the acres of empty office space still cluttering up the land. £10 a sq ft seems a fair price to solve the housing problem and pacify those rural dwellers until recently the reluctant hosts to the hippy caravans. Fantastic, I know, but we live in a strange world, where the ambitions of Attila and Charlemagne, Napoleon and Hitler can be frustrated by a few thousand drunken Swedes.

THE THAMES WATER

"Just playing safe with the regulator, sir"

DOWTY SHAREHOLDERS

TI'S FINAL* OFFERS FOR DOWTY CLOSE IN 4 DAYS

ACCEPTANCES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 1.00PM WEDNESDAY, 10TH JUNE*



FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROCEDURE FOR COMPLETING THE FORM OF ACCEPTANCE
CALL 071 489 3059 BETWEEN 9.00AM AND 5.30PM

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figures on this page. If it matches the total weekly price movement, you win. If not, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Siem	Transport	
2	Wartburg SG	Bank/Dis	
3	Sum Water	Water	
4	LBMS	Electrical	
5	Business Tech	Industrial	
6	Br Romeo	Oils, Gas	
7	Br Vito	Industrial	
8	Utopia	Foods	
9	Tomkinson	Toys	
10	Mowlem (I)	Building/Rds	
11	Tunstall	Electrical	
12	Glosson (M)	Building/Rds	
13	Lloyd Chase	Drapery/Sts	
14	BT	Electrical	
15	Arlen	Electrical	
16	Wessex Water	Water	
17	Assoc Br Pors	Transport	
18	Smurfit (Jeff)	Paper/Print	
19	Lytes (S)	Textiles	
20	El Data Pre	Electrical	
21	Booth Inds	Industrial	
22	Aviva Pre	Oils, Gas	
23	Carles	Bank/Dis	
24	Croda	Chem./Plas	
25	Yorkshire W	Water	
26	Rockin Colm	Industrial	
27	Goal Pet	Oils, Gas	
28	Ryl Bl Soot	Bank/Dis	
29	Bulmer (I)	Breweries	
30	Wilkes (James)	Industrial	
31	Transfer Tech	Industrial	
32	CALA	Building/Rds	
33	Admiral	Electrical	
34	Argos Pic	Drapery/Sts	
35	Unilever	Industrial	
36	Carrings	Industrial	
37	Euromoney Pb	Newspaper/Pub	
38	Jones Stroud	Electrical	
39	LGW	Industrial	
40	Wainwright	Paper/Print	
41	Telemetric	Electrical	
42	Anwoods	Building/Rds	
43	Vaux Group	Breweries	
44	Island Fries	Foods	

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily goals for the weekly dividend of £1,200 in today's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT Sunday

There were no winners of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum competition and the prize will be carried over to Monday.

1992 High Low Company Price

£/s + Net Yd % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HLD

37	Abbey Nm	28	-	0	0
185	Alred Irish	160	-	0	0
24	Bank of America	34	-	0	0
107	Barclays	200	-	0	0
212	Barclays New	150	-	0	0
161	Barclays Plc	151	-	0	0
124	Barclays Plc	149	-	0	0
97	Bank Scotland	115	-	0	0
143	Bankers Trust	120	-	0	0
4	Barclays Plc	120	-	0	0
204	Barclays Plc	120	-	0	0
125	Brown Shipley	120	-	0	0
126	Business Week	120	-	0	0
23	Castrol	120	-	0	0
73	Charles Allen	73	-	0	0
24	Chase Manh	120	-	0	0
127	Citibank	120	-	0	0
267	Citibank	120	-	0	0
121	Deutsche Bank	120	-	0	0
34	First Nat Plc	80	-	0	0
215	HSBC	120	-	0	0
128	HSBC	120	-	0	0
129	Kingfisher	67	-	0	0
124	Lehman Bros	120	-	0	0
45	London Stock	120	-	0	0
241	Midland Bank	120	-	0	0
242	Midland Bank	120	-	0	0
243	Midland Bank	120	-	0	0
244	Midland Bank	120	-	0	0
145	Nat West	120	-	0	0
245	Nat West	120	-	0	0
120	Standard Char	120	-	0	0
157	TSB	120	-	0	0
205	Warburg	120	-	0	0
206	Warburg	120	-	0	0
207	Warburg	120	-	0	0
208	Warburg	120	-	0	0
209	Warburg	120	-	0	0
210	Warburg	120	-	0	0
211	Warburg	120	-	0	0
212	Warburg	120	-	0	0
213	Warburg	120	-	0	0

BREWERS

72	Allied-Byers	65	-	0	0
154	Barry Bros	65	-	0	0
24	Bank of America	34	-	0	0
107	Barclays	200	-	0	0
212	Barclays New	150	-	0	0
161	Barclays Plc	151	-	0	0
124	Barclays Plc	149	-	0	0
97	Bank Scotland	115	-	0	0
143	Bankers Trust	120	-	0	0
4	Barclays Plc	120	-	0	0
204	Barclays Plc	120	-	0	0
125	Brown Shipley	120	-	0	0
126	Business Week	120	-	0	0
23	Castrol	120	-	0	0
73	Charles Allen	73	-	0	0
24	Chase Manh	120	-	0	0
127	Citibank	120	-	0	0
267	Citibank	120	-	0	0
121	Deutsche Bank	120	-	0	0
34	First Nat Plc	80	-	0	0
215	HSBC	120	-	0	0
128	HSBC	120	-	0	0
129	Kingfisher	67	-	0	0
205	Warburg	120	-	0	0
206	Warburg	120	-	0	0
207	Warburg	120	-	0	0
208	Warburg	120	-	0	0
209	Warburg	120	-	0	0
210	Warburg	120	-	0	0
211	Warburg	120	-	0	0
212	Warburg	120	-	0	0
213	Warburg	120	-	0	0

BUILDING, ROADS

62	Abbey	70	-	0	0
154	Alred Irish	160	-	0	0
24	Bank of America	34	-	0	0
107	Barclays	200	-	0	0
212	Barclays New	150	-	0	0
161	Barclays Plc	151	-	0	0
124	Barclays Plc	149	-	0	0
97	Bank Scotland	115	-	0	0
143	Bankers Trust	120	-	0	0
4	Barclays Plc	120	-	0	0
204	Barclays Plc	120	-	0	0
125	Brown Shipley	120	-	0	0
126	Business Week	120	-	0	0
23	Castrol	120	-	0	0
73	Charles Allen	73	-	0	0
24	Chase Manh	120	-	0	0
127	Citibank	120	-	0	0
267	Citibank	120	-	0	0
121	Deutsche Bank	120	-	0	0
34	First Nat Plc	80	-	0	0
215	HSBC	120	-	0	0
128	HSBC	120	-	0	0
129	Kingfisher	67	-	0	0
205	Warburg	120	-	0	0
206	Warburg	120	-	0	0
207	Warburg	120	-	0	0
208	Warburg	120	-	0	0
209	Warburg	120	-	0	0
210	Warburg	120	-	0	0
211	Warburg	120	-	0	0
212	Warburg	120	-		

No special Wellcome for Sid

BY LIZ DOLAN

SMALLER shareholders are showing an interest in the forthcoming flotation of up to 417 million shares in Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals company. This is despite protestations from Robert Fleming, the leading adviser, that the objectives do not include wider share ownership. In other words, Sid is not part of the ideal customer profile.

Nell Stapley, managing director of NatWest Stockbrokers, said: "We've had some enquiries and there will

probably be more as the publicity builds up. It has been deliberately pitched at the more traditional investor with an existing portfolio.

The traditional broker's private client. If I were looking to extend my privatisation portfolio, I don't think I'd go for this one."

Gavin Oldham, chief executive of the Share Centre, based in Tring, Hertfordshire, said: "I certainly think the issue has been made as appealing as possible to private investors though, with a

minimum investment of £1,000, they must certainly be serious investors too."

The offer is similar to last year's BT2 offer, in that institutions must tender for stock, but private investors cannot band together to bid against them. The strike price will be announced on June 25.

Applications may be made through stockbrokers and selected financial advisers or on public application forms. The Share Information Office is on 081-944 1242.

BRIEFINGS

■ NATIONAL & Provincial Building Society is asking customers to help it to recover £29 million in overcharged tax and accrued interest from the government. All customers have been asked to sign and send off a pre-written letter of protest addressed to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, requesting the return of £1.6 million in overpaid tax and another £1.3 million in accrued interest.

■ IRISH Life has launched a flexible pension scheme, designed to cope with career changes or breaks as well as additional voluntary contributions and needs that may arise later in the life of the policyholder. The minimum contribution is £30 a month gross, or £360 a year. The minimum single contribution is £2,000. There is an initial charge of 5 per cent, plus monthly deductions of 0.0625 per cent to cover annual management charges.

■ NON-customers can now buy shares through branches of the Norwich & Peterborough Building Society. Minimum commission for both types of transaction is £17.

Fimbra has rejected the market-makers' claim that this was a grey area. Richard Cockcroft, Fimbra's director of practice, said: "It is very simple. As far as we are concerned all members have to use standard projections."

Most of the leading market-makers, including Beale Doble, Policy Portfolio, Policy Plus and Gerald Edelman, are members of Fimbra.

Insurance companies selling new policies with more than five years to run before maturity are not allowed to use current bonus rates to project returns.

Regulators believe it is misleading to base projections on rates that are not guaranteed to stay the same throughout the term of the policy. The terminal bonus paid by many

Fimbra takes strong line on policy sales

BY SARA MCCONNELL

FIRMS making a market in second-hand endowment policies could be investigated by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) for breaching rules forbidding the use of current bonus rates to project returns.

The market for buying and selling unwanted endowment policies has grown dramatically over the past three years, and one leading player, Policy Portfolio, estimates it is now worth about £50 million. As well as auctioning life policies, investors can also trade endowments as they would shares through a growing number of market-makers.

The advantage of buying a policy which has been in force for a number of years is that it has already earned bonuses which cannot be taken away, and the impact of set-up charges has been borne by the previous owner of the policy.

However, market-makers are indicating that investors buying second-hand policies can expect returns of between 13 per cent and 15 per cent based on current bonus rates.

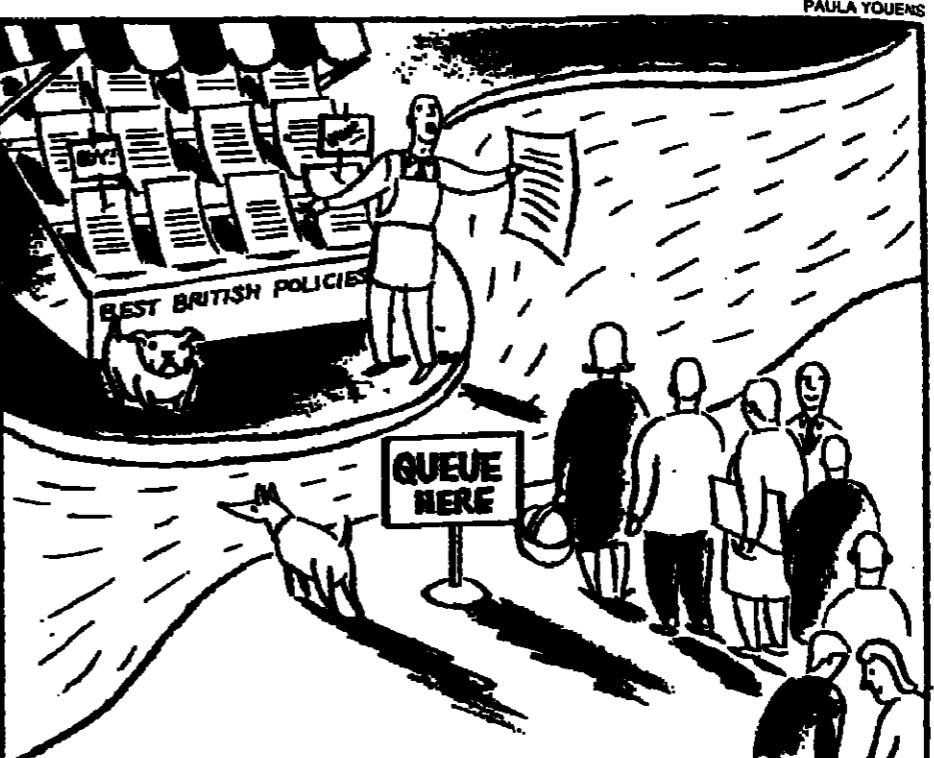
The returns are based on the assumed maturity value of the policy, which itself depends on future levels of bonus rates. Rates from almost all leading life offices have fallen this year, in at least one case by up to 9 per cent.

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Unwanted life plans boost export trade

BY SHIRLEY DAVENPORT

THE sale of second-hand endowment policies is providing Britain with a valuable export trade.

A growing number of overseas investors, mostly in Europe, have decided that buying unwanted UK policies, with their generous terminal bonuses, is more rewarding than many other forms of investment.

Since the recession, there has been no shortage of unwanted policies available from people who either switched from an endowment mortgage to the cheaper repayment kind, or who need to raise cash.

Most of the companies dealing in second-hand with-profits policies report the largest number of overseas customers in Germany. But business is starting to flourish in Sweden, and other enquiries have come from Israel, Hong Kong, the Middle East and, more recently, America.

The most sought-after policies are 25-year endowments from leading insurance companies such as Scottish Widows, Scottish Amicable, Standard Life, and Norwich Union, with ten or 15 years left to run. Many of them currently sell privately for a

third more than the surrender value an insurance company would pay.

"Policies from most of the Scottish companies are snapped up," said Declan Hoare, financial controller at Policy Network, which acts as agent for policies offered for sale, in return for a fee of 12.5 per cent. "We have just sold 11 policies in one call from a German broker. The rate of return from UK insurance policies exceeds anything that a German life company can offer."

Christopher Doble, director of Beale Doble, said: "Standard projections prevent any comparison between one life office and another. We need to provide all the information we can for people investing large lump sums." He added that firms had received legal advice that the assumptions they were making did not constitute projections, and would be writing to Fimbra. It was always made clear to customers what assumptions had been used in the calculation.

Most of the companies dealing in second-hand with-profits policies report the largest number of overseas customers in Germany. But business is starting to flourish in Sweden, and other enquiries have come from Israel, Hong Kong, the Middle East and, more recently, America.

"Our overseas customers want policies with leading UK companies like Friends' Provident, Standard Life and Norwich Union, with a range of maturity dates, but preferably those which have been running five or six years with another ten or more to go."

Foster & Cranfield believes only a small proportion of the policies it auctions every four weeks are bought by German customers, but Securitised Endowment Contracts, setting up distribution centres in Germany to handle UK policies, estimates that one fifth of the unwanted policies it buys end up abroad.

"Short-term investments do not appeal to the Germans. They are not interested in policies which mature in five or six years. Their ideal policy is one which has run for ten years and matures in another ten or fifteen. Best prices are paid for Scottish Amicable, Scottish Widows, Standard Life, Prudential.

"The Germans take the view that because we are in the ERM the currency risk is negligible. Discounting inflation, the German investor could expect to receive two and a half times what he would get on a German life insurance policy."

A few months after Gerald Edelman began buying and selling policies in 1990, the majority were going abroad. Many have gone to Germany, but Israel provides several customers and a few have ended up in trust funds in Gibraltar and Liechtenstein.



Cockcroft: concerned

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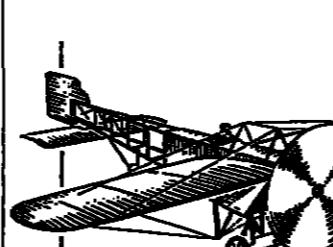
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THE S
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T

Friction

'Spread' wipes out early gains on units

BY SARA MCCONNELL

INVESTORS in unit trusts could find the value of their holding has fallen, even if the stock market rises slightly, because they have not taken into account the 5 per cent "spread" charged by unit trust companies, the investment ombudsman said this week.

In his annual report, Richard Youard said: "You may in fact get back less than you invested even when the market does show an upturn. This can happen very easily where a customer puts his life savings into recommended unit trusts and cashes them in before the market has taken its units above the level of the bid/offer spread."

Many investors had no idea of the impact of the spread on their investment, Mr Youard said. All unit trusts carry an initial charge of between 5 per cent and 6 per cent, which is normally deducted from the investment when it is first made. The charge represents the difference between the price at which units are bought — the offer price — and the price at which they are sold — the bid price.

Mr Youard said: "Several times complainants have said to me that they fully accept that somehow or other the investment manager has to be paid for what he is doing, but in many cases they have no idea of the very real impact in the short term of the so-called 'spread'. The truth comes home dramatically when they receive their first report showing the stock market has moved slightly in their

favour, yet the value of their precious savings invested in the unit trust has actually gone down: they realise for the first time that the unit price must increase by about 5 per cent or 6 per cent above the initial value before they can even get their money back in full."

Investors needed a statement saying that the cost of the manager's services would be deducted from their investment on the first day, and that they would need an equivalent rise in the value of the units before being able to recover their original investment, let alone get any increase in the value, the ombudsman said.

Falls in investments are compounded by the impact of the initial charge, particularly if investors withdraw funds soon after putting them in. Rex Markham, a supply teacher of Flitwick in Bedfordshire, invested £70,000 in a broker bond in June 1990 with Knight Williams, an independent financial adviser. The money was invested in Knight Williams' Principal



Shrinking sum: Rex Markham lost money

Portfolio, a bond which in turn invests in the unit trusts of other companies. There is exposure to the UK, America, Far East, European and Japanese stock markets. The portfolio has one initial 5 per cent charge, deducted from the investment on the first day.

Mr Markham withdrew £5,000 in October this year to help his daughter to buy a house and £6,600 to pay off a car loan in February this year, leaving £58,400. However, the value of his investment two weeks ago was just over £48,000.

John Williams, a director of Knight Williams, said the main reason for the fall in the investment's value was that Mr Markham bought when the markets were high, just before the Gulf war, and withdrew money when the market had fallen in October, after war had been declared.

The investment had not had time to grow to absorb the impact of the 5 per cent charge.

Mr Williams said the investment would now be worth

£61,485 if the two lump sum withdrawals were added back in, less the initial charge. This is a fall of 12 per cent. Over the same period, the FT world index, which most closely resembles the exposure of Mr Markham's portfolio, fell by 7.23 per cent.

Mr Williams said that if the 5 per cent charge was added back into the investment, the value would have fallen by 7 per cent.

Mr Williams said: "If we

had known he wanted capital so soon, we wouldn't have advised going into it."

Mr Markham said: "It sounded plausible at the time, although my wife advised me against putting the whole £70,000 into this. I wish I'd listened to her now. I think there had just been bad investment decisions." He is considering withdrawing some of the money and investing it elsewhere, so that he can compare performance.

Funds put their faith in Europe

BY RUPERT BRUCE

DANISH voters may have derailed the Maastricht treaty on political and monetary union this week, but Europe's state of flux throws up investment opportunities. Two investment trusts aim to raise a total of up to £120 million in the next few weeks to invest in European stock and bond markets, while a unit trust raised £12 million only two months ago.

The fund managers believe that the increasing integration of Europe, the opening up of eastern Europe, and economic recovery make it a good time to invest in Europe. Similar arguments were used to sell funds two years ago when the markets were at their peak. But Paul Harwood, the fund manager of Mercury Asset Management's New Europe Fund unit trust, which was launched in late March, thinks the outlook for Europe's stock markets is better now.

The euphoria surrounding the collapse of communism

pushed share prices to expensive levels, just as European economies were entering a period of slower growth. Now shares are less expensive and growth rates are expected to accelerate gradually.

Paul Hammitt, European economist at Paribas Capital Markets Group, says that interest rates are the key to growth. He thinks they have peaked at between 9 and 10 per cent and, following Germany's lead, should gradually fall across Europe, starting from the last few months of this year.

He gives a warning, however, that German inflation is still above Bundesbank targets and so rates will fall slowly.

Mr Harwood regards the prevailing economic and stock market conditions as reasonably favourable. He is buying shares that should benefit from regional and industrial changes and valuation anomalies, as well as recovery plays and smaller companies.

Mercury says substantial

tend to outperform their larger rivals over long periods.

Smaller companies are also a good investment on economic recovery because their performance tends to be strongest in recovery periods.

These fund managers have occurred chiefly because European stock markets have been examined separately. But as they slowly come to be considered collectively, Mercury thinks the anomalies should disappear. That gives an opportunity to buy a Swiss drug company like Hoffman La Roche in the hope that it may soon be as expensive as Glaxo, its British rival.

Thornton Management considers the smaller companies effect so important that it is launching the European Smaller Companies investment trust this month — Thornton defines smaller companies as those with a free market capitalisation of between \$30 million and \$600 million. In both Britain and Germany, statistics show that smaller companies

should

outperform

larger

competitors

over

long

periods.

It is also easier for British managers to invest on the continent now because the exchange rate mechanism virtually eliminates currency risk.

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*Source: Hoare Govett

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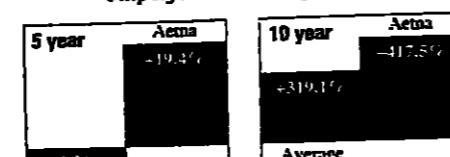
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Source: Micropal periods to 1st May 1992, offer to bid, net income reinvested.

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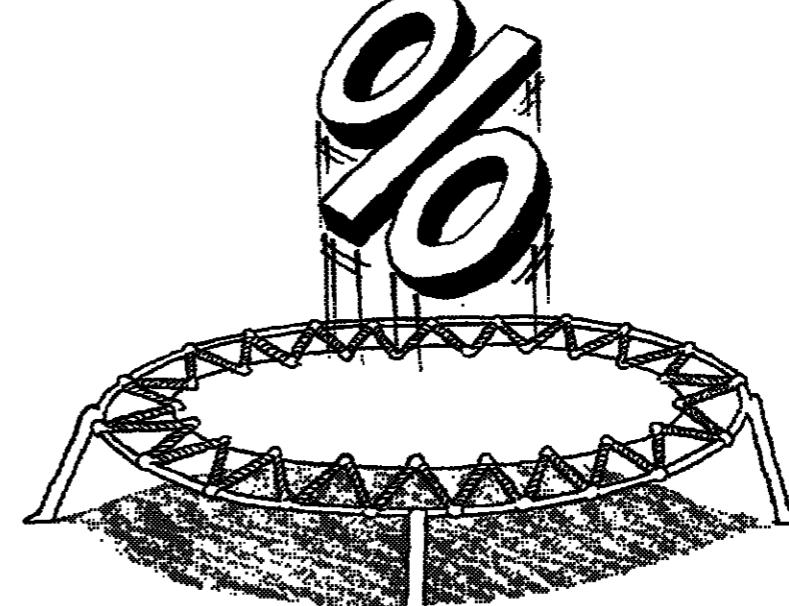
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Typical					
Barclays	6.75	6.75	5.40	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-728 1557
Chase	6.75	6.75	5.40	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-728 1557
Lloyds	6.61	6.61	4.65	2,500-10,000	1 mth Local Branch
Midland	6.56	6.56	5.10	2,000-10,000	6 mth Local Branch
NatWest	6.59	6.59	5.33	10,000-24,000	1 mth 071-728 1557
Westpac	6.59	6.59	5.33	10,000-24,000	1 mth 071-728 1557
NeWest	6.09	6.09	4.60	10,000-24,000	3 mth 071-728 1000
	6.09	6.09	4.67	10,000-24,000	

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BANKS	Bank of Scotland HSC	Barclays	Chase	Co-operative	HSBC	Leeds	Lloyds	Midland	NeWest	Westpac
Ordinary Acc:	6.49	6.66	5.54	2.500*	none	021-442 7777				
Typical										
Barclays	6.76	6.75	5.40	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-728 1557				
Chase	6.75	6.75	5.40	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-728 1557				
Lloyds	6.61	6.61	4.65	2,500-10,000	1 mth	Local Branch				
Midland	6.56	6.56	5.10	2,000-10,000	1 mth	071-728 1557				
NeWest	6.09	6.09	4.60	10,000-24,000	1 mth	071-728 1000				
	6.09	6.09	4.67	10,000-24,000	3 mth	071-728 1000				

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Chase	7.00	7.00	2.50	2,500 min	Postal	—	—
HSBC	7.00	7.00	6.15	40,000 min	30 day	—	—
Leeds	7.00	7.00	6.15	25,000 min	30 day	—	—
Midland	7.00	7.00	6.15	25,000 min	30 day	—	—
NeWest	7.00	7.00	6.15	30,000 min	1 year	—	—
Best buy - all soccs							
Barclays & Gt	7.00	7.00	6.24	1,000 min	Postal	—	—
Chase	7.00	7.00	6.15	40,000 min	30 day	—	—
HSBC	7.00	7.00	6.15	25,000 min	30 day	—	—
Leeds	7.00	7.00	6.15	25,000 min	30 day	—	—
Midland	7.00	7.00	6.15	25,000 min	30 day	—	—
NeWest	7.00	7.00	6.15	30,000 min	1 year	—	—
Cash/cheque Accounts:							
Barclays	1.89	2.01	1.81	50 min	Rates rise	—	—
Chase	2.10	2.18	1.74	25 min	with larger	—	—
HSBC	1.88	1.88	1.80	1 min	balances	—	—
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NATIONAL SAVINGS

NATIONAL SAVINGS	Ordinary A/c:	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c:	6.50	6.25	5.10	5-25,000	1 mth	041-649-4555	
Income Bond:	10.25	7.69	6.15	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0283 69151	
Term Bond CP:	10.25	7.69	6.15	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0283 69151	
3½ Year Cert:	9.00	8.00	8.00	25-10,000	14 day	021-395 4800	
Yeady Plan:	9.00	8.00	8.00	20-200,000	14 day	021-395 4800	
Children's Bond	10.50	10.50	10.50	1,000	1 year	021-395 4800	
Capital Bond	10.75	10.50	9.50	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-649-4555	

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Guaranteed Income Bonds	RP1 (April 91-92)	1+5%	Holiday rates	£ keys
Proprietary	8.55	8.35	7.10	Figures from
New Direction	8.50	8.30	5.80	Chase
Proprietary	8.45	8.25	7.15	French
Proprietary	8.25	8.25	7.00	German
Proprietary	8.40	8.40	7.14	Italian
	18.5-32%		21.50	for details

* 5.2% for balances below £500, 6.5% off interest on £1. Instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less. Additional holdings up to £10,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing restricted certificates. The 18.5% figure is for those taking out a 3½ year certificate. * £1 no longer on 10 June.

Compiled by KAREN BUCKLEY

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
National & Provincial	9.20	250-500K	95	After 1.5% discount until 1.45%
NeWest	9.35	240-500K	95	Fixed for 3 years.
071-242 8622	9.40	150K+	95	1% off for 1st year plus 0.6% to 1.11.5%
0274 734822				
BANKS				
Barclays	9.45	250-500K	90	After 1.25% off for 1 year
Royal Bank of Scot.	9.70	250K+	95	After 1% discount for 1 year
051 52				

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Liffe Options												Commodities											
REPORT: London coffee and cocoa experienced a torpid afternoon, with both markets showing little inclination to break out of trends established early in the day. The sugar markets also saw only routine turnover, as New York appeared undecided over which direction to take after Thursday's sharp upward move.												LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICIS-LOR) - London 6.00pm: Following a spate of pre-weekend short covering, levels edged higher.											
LONDON COFFEE												CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)											
LONDON COCOA												GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES											
LONDON COCOA												PRODUCTS (\$/MT)											
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Irish prepare to hail their first Milk Race victor

Henry holds off his rivals on eve of last stage

BY PETER BRYAN

CONOR Henry will be 50 miles from becoming the first Irishman to win the Milk Race in the event's 35 years history when the final stage over 20 laps of a 2.5-mile circuit starts today at Lincoln. The rider, aged 21, who lives in France, first took the leader's yellow jersey at Sunderland on Wednesday.

He is confident that he can hold on throughout today's race, tailor-made for climbers strong enough to survive the narrow, cobbled one-in-six ascent of Michaelgate.

Yesterday's stage gave him a dress rehearsal: three climbs of Michaelgate before the finish of the eleventh stage from York. He showed both his strength and determination to retain the yellow jersey when, against overwhelming odds, he succeeded in increasing his lead.

Five riders are within a minute of Henry, but after finishing fifth yesterday to lowly placed Rik Coopens, the Belgian Colstrop professional, the Irishman said: "I think I showed them all who was the strongest man today, certainly on the climbs, and I believe that I can do that again tomorrow."

At times dramatic, at others farcical, yesterday's changing emotions of the

race were firmly shut from Henry's mind. His thoughts were concentrated on resisting the constant attacks from a half-dozen rivals all determined to dethrone him.

The farce came at Gainsborough (51 miles), when warnings were given that local police would be using radar guns when the race covered two laps of a town circuit with a £1,000 sprint prize on offer. The authorities appeared unaware that riders had been recording a steady 40mph on the opening sections of the race.

Henry was always in the thick of the drama and, as on Thursday, his gallant band of team colleagues took control from the start, keeping the pace high to prevent breakaway attempts.

Their effort meant that 32 miles were covered in the first hour's racing across the grey Yorkshire fells, but the pace told on some of the team. When a strong cross-wind split the bunch into three groups, Henry was the only Irishman with the strength to gain a place in the front section.

All the top men overall were there with the exception of Yury Surkov of the CIS, when a dozen formed up in the lead at 33 miles Henry

faced three Banana-Met riders. Neil Hoban (third), Brian Smith (seventh), and Ben Luckwell (thirtieth), two Colstrops, Willy Willems (second) and Rik Coopens (fourth), Neils Boorgard, Wim van de Meulenhoof and Jeroen Hermans, of The Netherlands, and Christian Andersen (fourth), and Lars Michaelsen, of Denmark.

With so many leading teams represented at the head of affairs, there was a reluctance to chase. Once through the radar zone of Gainsborough, and with a tail wind over much of the closing 20 miles, the dozen front riders built their advantage at one stage to a maximum of 2min 26sec.

RESULTS: Stage 11 (Yester Lincoln, 88.5 miles): 1. R Coopens (Belgium); 2. W. van de Meulenhoof (Belgium); 3. B. Luckwell (GB); 4. N. Hoban (Ireland); 5. C. Andersen (Denmark); 6. G. Smith (GB); 7. W. Willems (Belgium); 8. J. Hermans (Neth); 9. B. Smith (GB); 10. Neils Boorgard (Belgium); 11. L. Michaelsen (Denmark); 12. R. Coopens (Belgium); 13. N. Hoban (GB); 14. B. Luckwell (GB); 15. C. Andersen (Denmark); 16. G. Smith (GB); 17. W. van de Meulenhoof (Belgium); 18. J. Hermans (Neth); 19. B. Willems (Belgium); 20. N. Hoban (GB); 21. R. Coopens (Belgium); 22. L. Michaelsen (Denmark); 23. B. Luckwell (GB); 24. G. Smith (GB); 25. W. Willems (Belgium); 26. C. Andersen (Denmark); 27. R. Coopens (Belgium); 28. N. Hoban (GB); 29. B. Luckwell (GB); 30. J. Hermans (Neth); 31. W. van de Meulenhoof (Belgium); 32. C. Andersen (Denmark); 33. G. Smith (GB); 34. B. Willems (Belgium); 35. N. Hoban (GB); 36. R. Coopens (Belgium); 37. L. Michaelsen (Denmark); 38. B. Luckwell (GB); 39. C. Andersen (Denmark); 40. G. Smith (GB); 41. W. van de Meulenhoof (Belgium); 42. J. Hermans (Neth); 43. B. Willems (Belgium); 44. N. Hoban (GB); 45. R. Coopens (Belgium); 46. G. Smith (GB); 47. B. Luckwell (GB); 48. C. Andersen (Denmark); 49. W. van de Meulenhoof (Belgium); 50. J. Hermans (Neth); 51. B. Willems (Belgium); 52. N. Hoban (GB); 53. R. Coopens (Belgium); 54. G. Smith (GB); 55. B. Luckwell (GB); 56. C. Andersen (Denmark); 57. W. van de Meulenhoof (Belgium); 58. J. Hermans (Neth); 59. B. Willems (Belgium); 60. N. Hoban (GB); 61. R. Coopens (Belgium); 62. G. Smith (GB); 63. B. Luckwell (GB); 64. C. Andersen (Denmark); 65. W. van de Meulenhoof (Belgium); 66. J. Hermans (Neth); 67. B. Willems (Belgium); 68. N. Hoban (GB); 69. R. Coopens (Belgium); 70. G. Smith (GB); 71. B. Luckwell (GB); 72. C. Andersen (Denmark); 73. W. van de Meulenhoof (Belgium); 74. J. Hermans (Neth); 75. B. Willems (Belgium); 76. N. Hoban (GB); 77. R. Coopens (Belgium); 78. G. Smith (GB); 79. B. 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Rare talent tempted by history's trappings



Johnson: big decision

For the last eight months I have been preparing for the 1992 athletics season. The training regime has been thorough and the goals have been set. Now is the time for competition. There are no prizes for training well; it is the racing that matters.

My first race was in Bratislava on Monday. Originally thought to be a gentle opener, it ended up being a baptism by fire, since I was to face the world's fastest man over the distance, Michael Johnson, of the United States. To be honest there was never any doubt about who was going to win. Michael is in superb form and has to be because the US Olympic trials are only a couple of weeks away.

As expected, he won comfortably and with authority. I always try to learn from my first few races. The 400 metres is a difficult event to master because the slightest error in pace judgment can result in a significantly slower time. When the important races begin in July there will be no room for mistakes. Taking all this into consideration, my first outing has been satisfactory.

Michael has a big decision to make soon: whether to run the 200 metres, 400 metres, or both, at the Olympic Games. There are many factors that will influence his decision. The timetable of events is such that, if he were to attempt both distances, he would have little time for rest. The organisers are sym-

pathetic to his cause and are contemplating a change in schedule. Regardless, his task is daunting, especially since each final will be preceded by three rounds that are physically and mentally draining.

I believe Michael's decision depends on how much he wants to try to make history. A 200 metres-400 metres double has never been achieved at the Olympic Games. If his ambition is to win an Olympic gold med-

Roger Black, 400 metres silver medal winner at the world championships, assesses the difficulties facing Michael Johnson if he is to set an athletics first at the Olympics

al then he would be wiser to concentrate solely on the 200 metres, a distance at which he is world champion and potential world record-holder. Over 400 metres he is undefeated but is yet to be tested under championship conditions. Running four races in five days is different from a one-off race with plenty of rest beforehand.

There is no question that Michael can cope with the pressure, but it would be a greater risk to take. He is due

to run the 200 metres in Rome on Tuesday, after which he believes he will be in the position to decide.

If I were Michael I too would be sorely tempted to try the double. He is a rare talent, possessing a unique running action and ability that has yet to be truly tested. He commands a respect in the athletics world that few again, not just for his physical prowess but also for the manner in which he conducts himself.

At home, the first important domestic meeting takes place in Sheffield this weekend. The United Kingdom championships always signal the beginning of the season for Britain's potential Olympians. Athletes compete with different goals and aspirations. It is the British sport at its best. The established athletes compete on equal terms with those of the future.

Athletes like myself often appear to be detached from the grass-roots level, which carries on for thousands of people and is not governed by Olympic ambition or personal glory. For every British international, there are hundreds of other athletes training just as hard. The UK championships is a great lev-

eller and is always a meeting I look forward to. Virtually all the big names in the sport have entered this year, so, hopefully, the always appreciative Sheffield crowd will have plenty of first-class competition to enjoy.

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Great Britain and Ireland 3½ points from famous Curtis Cup victory

Young Hall leads singles charge

BY MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

CAROLINE Hall and Carriona Lambert yesterday annihilated the two most experienced players in the United States team as Great Britain and Ireland took a commanding 6-3 lead in the Curtis Cup at Hoylake.

Hall, at 18 the youngest player in the match, overcame Leslie Shannon, aged 43, 6 and 5 and Lambert, aged 22, beat Carol Semple Thompson, the veteran of seven Curtis Cups 3 and 2.

"I just enjoyed myself so much," Hall said. "I was nervous, yes, but I saw a few familiar faces in the crowd which settled me. It's the best golf I've ever played in my life especially when you take into account the occasion."

The first day was a carbon copy of the one at Royal St George's four years ago. Great Britain and Ireland won the foursomes 2½-½ and increased their advantage by winning three and halving one of the six singles. They need to win 3½ points from the remaining three foursomes and six singles to secure another triumph.

Liz Boatman, the captain, said: "We've made a great start and there is no chance of the girls becoming complacent. They have already told me that and I believe them. This is a good team with a positive outlook."

The performance by Hall demonstrated her determination. In the morning, partnered by her namesake, Julie Hall, she was disappointed to emerge with only a half from her foursomes match after frittering away a two-hole advantage with three to play.

Yet she shrugged that aside to play golf of the highest calibre on a day when torrential rain accompanied by a strong wind created difficult conditions.

Hall chipped close to win the 1st from Shannon with a par. She was three up following a superb seven-iron approach at the 6th which led to a birdie putt of eight feet. Shannon simply could not respond and Hall, clearly enjoying every minute, struck another convincing blow at the 11th with a two iron tee shot which left the ball only six inches from the hole. "The best shot of my life? It has to be," she said.

In finishing the match on the 13th green, Hall completed one of the biggest wins by a Great Britain and Ireland player in the history of the match. Lambert, however, had every reason to feel equally delighted by her success against Thompson.

Lambert went three up by winning both the 13th with a par, and the 14th, where she holed a putt of just feet for a birdie. Then she extinguished Thompson's flickering hopes of keeping the match alive by holing from fully 30 feet for a birdie at the 16th.

Elaine Farquharson gained another point for Great Britain and Ireland by



Do it my way: Thomas and Lambert discuss a putt during the foursomes against the US

beating Robin Weiss 2 and 1.

"I call that sweet revenge," Farquharson said. "She beat me 2 and 1 in America two years ago. In fact I lost all my matches that year but I still didn't like it the way one writer put it that the big question was why did Elaine Farquharson play in all four?"

Farquharson, two up after ten, was brought back to all square when Weiss won the 11 and 12th. This, then, the time to show the resolve required to win at this level and Farquharson did so in style. She got up and down from a grass hollow right of the 14th green, holing from eight feet for a birdie, and coaxed the ball in from 15 feet for another birdie at the next. Weiss, whose play on around the greens was exceptional, holed from 10 feet at the 16th but Farquharson followed here in from seven feet.

Nicola Buxton lost to a fierce counter-attack by Martha Lang; Julie Hall was beaten by the impressive Vicki Goetze; but Joanne Morley recovered from two down after 11 to halve with Amy Fruwirth.

Halls unhappy with a half

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

BRITISH and Irish hearts

sank to the bottom of their Wellingtons at Hoylake yesterday morning as Amy Fruwirth and Vicki Goetze, a pair of archetypal all-American players played immaculately in the all-British conditions to win the first two holes of the first foursomes match against the home pair of Halls, Julie and Caroline.

Old Curtis Cup hands know that the first series of foursomes is often vital to the result of the entire match. When Great Britain and Ireland won consecutive matches at Prairie Dunes in 1986 and Royal St George's in 1988, they won the opening

foursomes 3-0 and 2½-½.

However, all 'n' all (as they refer to themselves) relish a good 'ead to 'ead and they won the long third with a par (the Americans democratically topped a shot each in the rough) and the short fourth with a birdie two, after a lovely tee shot from Caroline, the younger all.

In appalling conditions of wind and rain, they turned all square, both pairs out in 38, one over par. The Americans, ponytails poking out of the back of their baseball caps, were hard to tell apart. Near, ordered and diminutive, they were like flat, calm water. The Brits, bigger and more em-

tional, were choppier but they were two up with three to play after the 15th, where Fruwirth, the US amateur champion, bunkered her partner on three occasions.

The Americans won the 16th with a birdie, the 17th was halved in scrappy bogey fives and at the 18th, it was the Brits who fell foul of Hoylake's devilish, steep-faced bunkers. After Fruwirth had put her side on the green in two, Hall, J. caught her side's second shot heavy and Hall, C. was faced with a hugely difficult bunker shot. The upshot was a sorry six and the Americans had escaped with a recent all.

The Halls were downcast but the other two matches went to the home side and, with two-and-a-half points to a half, surely Great Britain and Ireland were home if not dry? At that thought, all old Curtis Cup hands started gnawing at their fingernails and touching wood ...

RESULTS FROM HOYLAKE

GB and Ireland names first
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WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY JUNE 6 1992

Sowing the seeds of love

PAULA MUNCK

Richard Goodman
left a high-powered life in New York to tend a garden plot in the south of France. He tells how the soil and sun stole his heart

I had a garden in the south of France. It wasn't a big garden. Or a sumptuous one. Or a successful one, even, in the end. But that didn't matter. It was my garden, and I worked it hard and lovingly for the few months I had it — or it had me.

This little piece of tan, clayey, French earth, nine metres by 13, was in fact the first garden I ever had. It taught me a great deal about myself. "Your garden will reveal yourself," the wise gardener Henry Mitchell writes. It did. It taught me that I am generous, impatient, hard-working, sentimental, boyish, stubborn and lazy.

Having a garden also connected me to France in a way more profound and more lasting than any other way I can possibly think of. Part of me is still there. And always will be. Even though my friend Jules Favier has recently written to me from the village that "only one of the four boundaries of your garden remains standing", I am not upset. What does that matter? The garden is in my heart.

Having a garden gave me a place to go in my village every day, a task to perform and a responsibility. You cannot ask more of a land in which you are a stranger. To feel the French earth, clear it, plant seeds in it, despair over it, and, ultimately, to take from it, that was a precious gift.

What makes a gardener is two things: the desire to garden and a piece of land with which to satisfy that desire. I never had a garden of my own until I was 43 years old and living in a little wine-making village in the south of France, near Vaison. All my life I had wanted to have a garden. The desire was always there, smouldering, ready to explode into being.

NOT think it is so easy to make a garden too small, but it is very easy to make a garden too big. This did, and magnificently. After rules had come with his tractor and cleared the land, ripping the earth apart and revealing all its lusciousness, I began to think about what to plant. There was still lots of work to be done — the raking and harrowing — before I could actually put the seeds and plants into the ground, but nevertheless I felt I could begin to make some decisions. I avoided any barrier to my garden fantasies with the simple solution of not excluding anything. Everything is permitted, nothing is forbidden." That was the motto of my garden in St Sébastien le Caillou.

Like Noah, I denied no living species entry into my garden. And, like Noah, I brought along at least two of each.

At the sprawling nursery in the early village of Cadier I wandered among the eye-boggling number of small green choices as if we were at an open, horticultural affair. "What are those?" I asked the owner, a big, taciturn farmer who happened to be the mayor of Cadier.

"Green pepper plants." He waited impatiently.

"Fantastic. I'll take two." Into my arboard box they went. "And hose?"

"Hot pepper plants." He looked round distractedly.

"Very interesting. Give me two. No, make that three." Into the box. And what about that?"

The mayor said a word in French I didn't understand.

"Hm," I said. "I don't know what that translates to in English. But what the heck, I'll take one. Let's make that two, just in case. And what about those plants over here?"

"Zucchini." He was beginning to sound pressed.

"Zucchini? Well, we can't have too much zucchini, can we? Not in the south of France. Give me four. Wait! Better make that six. Say, this box is getting



full. I'd better go get another."

All this by way of saying that ultimately I planted the following in the garden at St Sébastien: five varieties of lettuce, three varieties of tomatoes, zucchini, eggplant, basil, parsley, string beans, Lima beans, hot peppers, green peppers, red peppers, yellow peppers, carrots, radishes, melons, beets, cabbage, chives. And two kinds of flowers, one of which was the dwarf sunflower. And not just a few of each plant. An abundance. As I look back, I know I should have practised a kind of gardening birth control. But I didn't. I was delirious.

As I write this, it is raining outside. It reminds me of the day in late April — far too early — when I put the first plants into my garden. I was a cool, grey, misty day, one of those damp days when every plant and shrub looks well fed and full of capacity, with water cascading off broad leaves so green, so clear and forceful in the dull light. Such watery days uplift a gardener's spirit.

Iggy and I drove our car from the village and, just past the little bridge, turned off the road on to the lane that ran next to the vineyard. In the back of the car was a boxful of plants. I had been told by the villagers that it was too early to plant anything. But I couldn't wait. I had to put something into the earth, into my earth.

We walked over to the bank. The clayey earth gave way under our feet. We walked down the bank and crossed the stream. Then we walked to the far end, climbed it, and stepped on to the land. The only sound, aside from our mucky footsteps and spoken words, was the dripping of water from leaf to leaf in the small trees and bushes that bordered the land, a soft, slapping sonata. There was the cleared land before me, a groomed virgin piece of earth, fertile and ready. It was a peaceful moment, a perfect time to work.

I reached down into the box and picked up an eggplant. It was skinny and small, with just one or two leaves, not exactly inspiring. I got to my knees and made a small hole by opening the earth with my hand shovel. The mist was gathering in my hair like a spider's web and some of it was flowing off my eyebrows and down my cheeks. I placed the plant in the hole, I leaned slightly to its side.

"Here," I said to Iggy, giving her the hand shovel. "You do the honour." She took off her gloves. She bent down, a lovely Dutch girl who, like most others from her nation, has plants and flowers in her blood. She placed the earth around the plant deftly, like the sure, natural gardener she was. She pulled back, regarded the little plant, and then made several small but critical adjustments to the earth with her fingers. Watching her work, I felt supremely confident about the plant's future.

We both looked at the thin green plant, skinny and frail as a premature baby. It was now part of our earth, the beginning of our garden. I felt a mixture of pride and responsibility.

"It looks great," I said to Iggy. "It looks wonderful."

We planted the rest of the plants, one by one, and left them there, resting in their new earth, soon to be drenched by the rain.

I had a garden now.



To feel the earth, plant seeds in it, despair over it and then take from it was a precious gift'

Richard Goodman

EVERYTHING else about my garden was good and sometimes even thrilling, but this was what *gardening* was: the soft sound of the shovel thrusting and dislodging the earth. Feeling the warmth of the sun on my shoulders. The earth against my knees. I was taking the undisturbed hours of solitary work. I didn't need to speak. I didn't need to worry about opinions or politics. I didn't need to worry about anything. I slowly moved down a row, attending to each plant thoroughly, pushing my shovel in, lifting up the French soil, getting the backs of my hands dirty, sweating, wiping the drops from my eyes. Working. I was there for one simple reason: to help make things grow.

I would usually go to the garden twice a day. Once in the early morning to weed and rake and to do any other work that needed to be done. And once in the evening to water. I left home anywhere from 6.30 to 7.30am, just when the

sun's force had made it too hot to work any more, it was time to go. It was hard to leave the garden sometimes, especially later in the summer when things really began to grow. Then sometimes I stayed on, foolishly, in the heat, working away, once or twice nearly fainting in the furious noon sun. But it was also satisfying to stand back at the edge of the garden and look at the good work I had done, to see how clear the land looked around the plants that had been weeded and how gratifyingly fresh turned earth looked around a row of plants. They had been tended.

I would take my pall and shovel and whatever other equipment I had and go back to the car. It was fine, driving back to St Sébastien after a morning's work in the garden, my arm muscles throbbing a bit, my face beaming from the sun, the window open. I was dirty. I was tired. I was sweaty. I was happy.

I HAVE a colour photograph of myself on my wall in New York that was taken by a friend. I am in our house in St Sébastien, in the kitchen. The sunlight, even indoors, is intense. I am holding a head of lettuce in my hand. I am holding it before me, and I am looking at it and smiling. It is lettuce I have grown myself, in my own garden. It is one of those soft, densely packed heads, the leaves of which you find in salads in most bistro in France.

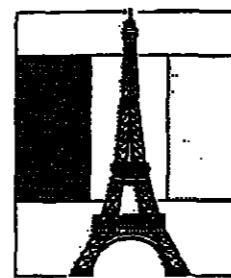
We probably ate it with our lunch that day — at least, I hope we did — with a little olive oil, and perhaps a splash of lemon. And perhaps with it some slices of tomato, bleeding with summer, also taken from the garden. And since the photograph was taken by a friend, it's certain that he, and maybe some others, shared that meal with us, seated around our long wooden table, the windows thrown open, letting the summer air stream in. Wine, bread, cheese, water, meat, salad before us all.

• French Dirt by Richard Goodman (Pavilion Books, £10.99).

FOOD AND DRINK, PAGES 6,7

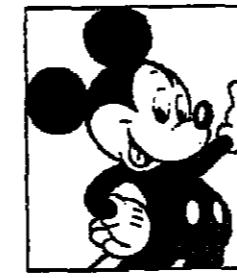
French memories to share, food to cook, restaurants to visit, croissants to fill, wine to buy — and hotels to enjoy half-price

PARIS GUIDE, PAGE 8



Join the ghosts of Sartre and Hemingway at a quintessential Parisian café — or feed your fantasies in the food shops and markets

GETTING AWAY, PAGES 10,11



Mickey and his pals are a new part of the French experience. Libby Purves takes her family to sample Euro Disney

NEXT WEEK

ALLEZ A PIED

"France is the ideal country for the walker. In nearly 20 years of walking I have never met the slightest hostility from a French farmer. In Britain I meet hostility almost every weekend." In Life & Times, Robin Neillands on France as hiker's heaven.

TRAVEL LIGHT

The SeaCat catamaran can cross the Channel in 60 minutes on HoverSpeed's new Folkestone-Boulogne route. From next Monday *Times* readers have the chance of half-price return SeaCat fares with three Passport to France tokens.

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Music Festival at Sea Programme

Ensembles	Flute
English Chamber Orchestra	Irene Grafenauer
James Judd, Conductor	Clarinet
Kremer Quartet	Emma Johnson
Piano	Violin
Evgeny Kissin	Gidon Kremer
Oleg Maisenberg	Hagai Shaham
Tatiana Nikolaeva	Maxim Vengerov
Jean-Bernard Pommier	Mezzo-soprano
Viola	Margarita Zimmeirmann
Yuri Bashmet	Tenor
Cello	Gary Lakes
Clemens Hagen	Lecturers
Trumpet	John Amis
Maurice Andre	Andre Tubauf

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PAQUET
FRENCH CRUISES

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Note: Information can change following publication. The international dialling code for France is 010 33 followed by the eight digit number. Paris City and Greater Paris telephone numbers should be prefixed with 1.

THEATRE

LES ATRIDES: One of the highlights of France's theatre season will be the completion of *Les Atrides*, Théâtre du Soleil's four-play cycle telling the tragic saga of the House of Atrides. Directed by Ariane Mnouchkine, it comprises *Iphigénie* by Euripides, and *Agamemnon*, *Les Choéphores* and *Le Eumenides* by Aeschylus. Mnouchkine continues to draw her inspiration from Asian theatre traditions and a notable feature of this cycle is the Indian-style dance used for the chorus, with a specially composed score by Jean-Jacques Lemaire. *La Cartoucherie de Vincennes*, route du Champ de Manœuvre, Paris (43.74.24.08). (Toulouse, June 9-20; Montpellier, June 27-July 5, Bradford, July 16-22, then back to Paris at the Cartoucherie from October-December.)



Radical: Anatoli Vasiliev, director of *Bal Masqué*

BAL MASQUÉ: Anyone who hasn't visited the Comédie Française for a few years may be in for a surprise. Jacques Lassalle, the new artistic director, continues the radical shake-up started by his predecessor, Antoine Vitez. His boldest move is a production of Lemontov's *Bal Masqué* directed by one of Russia's most controversial directors, Anatoli Vasiliev. The play, written in 1835, is one of three romantic dramas Lemontov wrote before he died at 27 after a torrid life of duels and exile. With more than a nod towards Shakespeare and Byron, it is the tragedy of a man who murders the wife he adores because he suspects her of infidelity. Comédie Française, 1 place Colette, Paris (40.15.00.15), until July 10.

RARE MOLIÈRE: Jacques Lacal will direct two rarely performed Mollière plays. *La Comtesse d'Escaubagnas* satirises provincial pretensions when a woman of a certain age believes she has three suitors but two turn out to be deceiving her. *George Dandin* centres on a rich farmer married to a girl who is noble but poor. But she has no intention of living in the countryside and promptly encourages the advances of the first young gallant she meets. Comédie Française (as above), until the end of July, then September-December.

LA NUIT DES ROIS: Jérôme Savary unleashes his anarchic imagination on Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Savary made his reputation as director of *Le Grand Magique Circus* and it is no surprise to find him swamping Shakespeare's delicate comedy with his burlesque titillation, even to the extent of writing in the odd belly dancer, striptease and Adonis in a G-string.

Théâtre National de Chaillot, 1 place du Trocadéro, Paris (47.27.81.15), until June 20.

SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICAN SEASONS: Under the direction of Luis Pasqual, the Odéon, Théâtre de l'Europe will feature this autumn a Spanish and Latin American season. Most of the productions will be by visiting companies, including the Catalan group, Els Comediants in *Mediterrània* (September), an exuberant show about the inspiration the sea has provided for countless poems, legends, songs — and theatrical spectacles. Also in September will be *Lope de Aguirre, Traitor* by the contemporary Spanish writer, José Sancha. Sancha's text consists of monologues by nine characters showing the divergence of opinion on the controversial Spanish Conquistador, Aguirre. Continuing the theme of the Spanish colonisation of America, Els Jocals present *Yo Tengo un Tío en America*. Albert Boadella's contribution towards the Columbus quincentenary celebrations which intelligently criticises the Conquistadors. Uli Pasqual himself rounds off the season with *Lope de Vega's Le Chevalier d'Ormeo* (November-December), a "cloak-and-dagger" play of the Spanish Golden Age, in a new French translation by the poet Zem Blau. This production will have its premiere at the Festival d'Avignon on July 10.

Théâtre de l'Europe Odéon, 1 place Paul Claudel, Paris (43.27.10.32).

LEGENDES DE LA FORÊT: André Engel directs Odon von Horvath's *Legendes de la forêt viennoise*. It contrasts the sentimentality of the Viennese operettas with the darker cruelty of Austria in the early 1930s. *Maison des Arts et de la Culture*, Crétel, outskirt of Paris (49.80.50.50), October-November.

ON S'AIMAIT TROP POUR SE VOIR TOUS LES JOURS: Anyone looking for something more experimental might try Ballatum Theatre's devised production of *We loved each other too much to see each other every day*. Under Guy Allouche's direction the company uses improvisation, dance and physical theatre techniques to explore the violence and humour in human relationships. Théâtre 71, Centre d'Action Culturelle de Malakoff, Malakoff, Paris (46.55.43.45), until June 20.

GREEK: Fans of Steven Berkoff can see his play *Greek* directed by Jorge Lavelli. Berkoff's mixture of raw aggression and grim humour in his retelling of the Oedipus myth may be well suited to Lavelli's approach: he last directed *Midsummer Night's Dream* as an Argentinian tango. Théâtre National de la Colline, 15 rue Maître-Brûlé, Paris (43.66.43.60), until June 21.

LA DISPUTE: In one of Marivaux's last plays two aristocrats discuss whether it is men or women who are the first to give in to infidelity. To answer the question an elaborate experiment has been set up: four young people have been brought up cut off from all forms of society and suddenly they are unleashed on each other. Stanislas Nordey directs. Théâtre des Amandiers, 7 avenue Pablo Picasso, Nanterre, Paris (47.21.81.47.21.22.25).

LA MUSIQUE: In one of Marivaux's last plays two aristocrats discuss whether it is men or women who are the first to give in to infidelity. To answer the question an elaborate experiment has been set up: four young people have been brought up cut off from all forms of society and suddenly they are unleashed on each other. Stanislas Nordey directs.

Théâtre des Amandiers, 7 avenue Pablo Picasso, Nanterre, Paris (47.21.81.47.21.22.25). **THE BARBER OF SEVILLE:** The Opéra de Paris uses its former — and many would argue more congenial — home for these performances of Dario Fo's *Netherlands Opera* production of Rossini's comic masterpiece. Among the cast are Gino Quilico as Figaro (except June 25), Fermuccio Furlanetto as Don Basilio (June 17, 28, July 1, 3, 5, 7) and Jennifer Lamore as Rosina (June 11, 13, 21, 28, July 5, 7). Marcello Viotti conducts (except June 28, July 5). Opéra de Paris-Bastille (as above), June 18, 22, 24, 27, 30.

THEATRE DE CHAMPEL: This year's theme is contemporary and traditional dance in the Mediterranean region with the promise of a new work by the Frankfurt-based American William Forsythe, considered to be one of the hottest choreographers around. Information: 7 boulevard Henry IV, 34000 Montpellier (67.61.11.20), June 24-27.

CHATEAULVON DANCE FESTIVAL: This festival hosts some of the top companies as well as introducing many young choreographers to France and Europe. Performances are held in an open-air amphitheatre. Information: Chateaullon (94.65.22.72), June 23.

LYON FIFTH DANCE BIENNALE: This year's biennial takes its cue from the Olympics and Expo with a Spanish theme, aiming to present the full range of Spanish dance. The focus in historical dance will find much to follow the spectacular productions of 17th-century baroque dancing and traditional Spanish dancing. Also featured are the traditional dances of the large provinces and flamenco. The biennial promises ten premieres introducing new talents. Information: Maison de Lyon, place Bellecour 69000 Lyon (72.40.26.26), September 12-October 4.

PINA BAUSCH TANZTHEATER WUPPERTAL: Pina Bausch is possibly the most influential choreographer in European contemporary dance and her work always elicits a strong response — positive or negative — from audiences. She brings her company to the Edinburgh Festival in August but before then has a season in Paris.

Théâtre de la Ville, 16 quai de Gesvres (48.87.54.42), June 23-July 4.

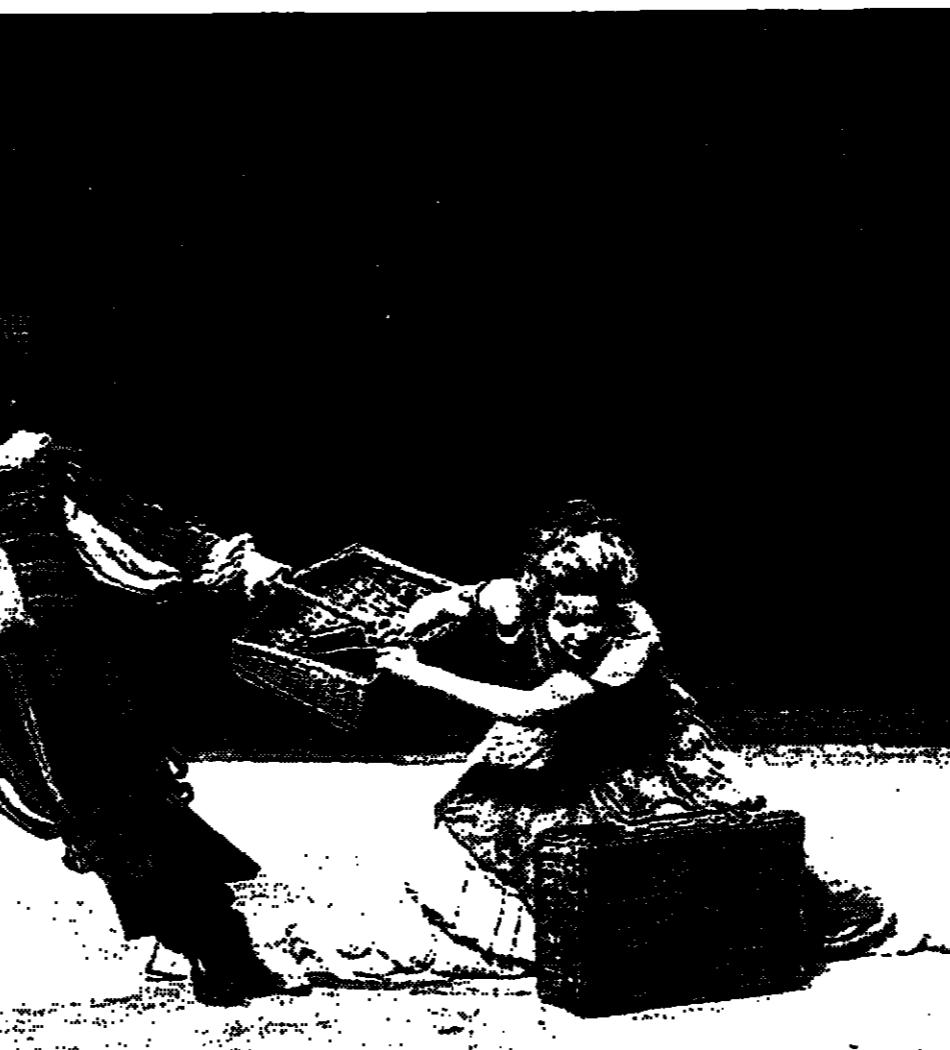
ROCK: SALIF KEITA: Mali's golden-voiced singer, who this year received France's highest cultural award, Chevalier des Arts et Lettres, takes to the road for several dates there this summer.

Festival de Rambam, Blois (54.43.51.09), tomorrow. Fête de la Musique, Nantes, Paris (47.29.30.31), June 21. *With Joe Zawinul* (see Jazz listings), Grande Parade du Jazz/JVC, Nice (93.71.89.60), July 17.

PEARL JAM: Straight-ahead heavy rock made interesting by the presence of the group's charismatic lead singer Eddie Vedder. Well worth catching live, they are supported by Sleater, the Los Angeles band with a punk edge formed by former Red Hot Chili Peppers' Jack Irons.

Elysée, Monastère, 72 boulevard Rochechouart, Paris (42.52.25.15), June 22.

ANGELIQUE KIDJO: Kidjo's tough, danceable debut single *Banganga* has just been released in Britain. Originally from Benin, this exciting performer is now a



Shaking up Shakespeare: Maxime Lombard and Natalia Domitcheva starring in *La Nuit des Rois* (see Theatre)

LA CERISAIE: Chekhov's play (*The Cherry Orchard*) will be directed by Stephane Braunschweig for the Centre Dramatique National de Gennéville in October. A former student of Antoine Vitez, Braunschweig, who is not yet 30, is noted for the stark intensity of his productions, especially those of his own company Theatre Machine. Braunschweig is not inhibited about putting his own stamp on a play, and in this production he gives Chekhov an epilogue as the Countess (June 9, 11, 13, 25).

OPERA: Tom Krause as the Count and Fermuccio Furlanetto as Figaro (June 20, 23, 25).

OPERA DE PARIS-BASTILLE: 120 rue de Lyon (44.73.13.00), June 9, 11, 13, 21, 23, 25.

OTELLO: The production by Romanian-born Henrika Ionesco met with a mixed response when it was new, but the cast is strong enough to carry the day. Plácido Domingo, the definitive incarnation of this most challenging of tenor roles, sings two performances as Otello (June 24, 30), with the reliable Vladimir Atanov singing the remainder. Justino Diaz is a musical if rather arch lago. American soprano Kallén Esperian is Desdemona. The Bastille's music director, Myung Whun Chung, conducts.

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Ambridge awash in Burgundy

Life's a-changing down in Ambridge, reports Lynne Truss. They've gone all sort of Frenchified. Just 'ark at 'em ...

RADIO

THE first thing Ambridge knew about its French connection was one June morning when Mike Tucker, leaving Willow Farm early for his dawn milk round, discovered that under Betty's neatly written gatepost sign "POTATOES", somebody had added the words "TWINNED WITH POMMES DE TERRE". "Typical" he yelled (though it was not), and studied the sign carefully with his one good eye.

This French thing was getting out of hand, he concluded. Ever since Eddie Grundy's mysterious Auntie Hilda had taken to her supposed deathbed in Aberdeen (leading Eddie to expect an inheritance), Clarrie had been besotted with the idea of a move to France. Grange Farm had become a little French colony, smelling of dark onion soup and resounding to the rhythms of *Linguaphone*. A community for whom the last word in far-flung exoticism had previously been Felpersham had started mentioning France with bewildering frequency. And French-bread pizzas had become a staple at The Bull.

Mike was stumped. Surely no one in *The Archers* office had really taken this Let's Parler Francais stuff seriously? After all, the listeners had not. In their hundreds of thousands they had failed to write outraged letters to the BBC, demanding that the Grundys be saved from French exile. Trusting to their own good sense (as *Archers* listeners so often do) they simply knew in their bones that Joe Grundy would never consent to live in a country where (as *Billy Wilder* says) the money falls apart in your hands but you can't tear the toilet paper. "All a blummin' fuss about nothin'" Mike huffed, with his usual good cheer, and popped a Valium.

"AH, there you are, Caroline," Robin said, a few hours later, on entering the vicarage dining room. "Oh, and Marjorie I didn't see you. And Jill good heavens here you are, too." (in common with all *Archers* characters, Robin was unable to spot everybody present on first entering a room) "Oh, and Phil, Golly, there's Shula too. Quite a crowd. Hello Nelson, long time no see."

"Can we get on now, Robin?" Marjorie asked, with an unaccustomed tinge of impatience. "If it's

nothing important, I said I would take my girls to the cinema in Felpersham this afternoon. In honour of the recent twinning with Marseilles, there are some particularly entertaining X-certificate French films showing on Thursday afternoons."

"Oh, but it is important, Marjorie. Very important indeed. You know the dendrochronologist who has been working on the old timbers under the church floor ..."

"Remind me, dendrochronology is the study of tree rings, isn't it?" Jill Archer interjected helpfully (to save the listener from grappling with the *Shorter OED*).

"Yes, that's right. Well, it seems that the dendrochronologist (and I'll say it again because it's such a nice word), the dendrochronologist has discovered evidence under the floor of St Stephen's which proves that the whole of Ambridge actually belongs to ancient Burgundy. You know, like in *Passport to Pimlico*."

"What?" Phil spluttered, characteristically.

"I don't like the sound of that," Uncle Tom declared.

Elizabeth had no right," Shula wailed, rocking an embroidered bolster in her arms. "I would have loved the baby, she could have given it to me." And she ran out of the room, amid funny looks.

"I'm afraid it's true, Phil," Robin continued, when everyone had settled down again. "We are all technically French — Burgundians — and there's a strong possibility that the name Grundy is a corruption of the name of our ancient rulers. I'm surprised you didn't have an inkling of it, Mr Forrest. We think that your wife, Pru, was on to the story when she was suddenly clear that of stroke of hers. It is quite clear that she had been looking under the floor when the timbers were first exposed, because the archaeologists found among the ancient seals and documents a recent pot of home-made jam and a Victoria sponge with a rosette on it."

"So my Pru knew all along?" Tom whispered.

"Evidently so, Tom. I'm sorry.

My theory is that since the French

plot-line was not quite ready, she was silenced."

"Poor Pru," Jill said, with an audible shudder.



Continents since Eddie and Clarrie took up with France, Grange Farm has smelt of onion soup and resounded to *Linguaphone*

"And now Clarrie is the only one among us with a French title, a cassette of Roch Voisine (whoever he is), a clove of garlic and an authentic camembert. I honestly wish those timbers had never been uncovered."

"Oh Phil," Jill gasped. "What are we going to do?"

"Je ne sais pas," Phil said, raising his voice in a well-practised way for the emphatic closing line. "Vraiment vraiment, je ne sais pas — at all!"

(Music: Dum de dum de dum de dum ...)

THE following weeks were strange for the people of Ambridge. Of course, the village immediately declared UDI from Borseshire and stopped worrying about rabies. Debbie Aldridge's horse, Autolycus, had an accident on the off-the-road riding course and all the folk of Ambridge got a bit each, wrapped in French newspaper. Linda

Snell took charge of drilling the village children in "The Marseillaise". And David and Phil practised some French farming methods they had read about — i.e. making placards and setting fire to lorries. But nobody's heart was really in it. And when people gathered together in Le Taureau on an evening they tended to blame the scriptwriters for letting things get out of hand.

"I think there were summat wrong in Clarrie wanting to move to France," Tom Forrest moaned, gloomily sipping his fifth Kir Royal and wrinkling his nose. "I wondered whether she might want Ambridge twinned with some French place. But I never imagined all of this."

"It's my opinion," Elizabeth piped, "that they don't know from one day to the next where the story is going."

Shula shot her a bleary-eyed glance. "I would have loved it!" she glared out, and ran to the door marked "Dames".

"They sneaked it in, Uncle Tom," Phil snapped. "We were all so preoccupied with Elizabeth's baby that nobody took it seriously — French night at The Bull, indeed. ... Little William Grundy collecting snails for Jean-Paul at Grey Gables ... We thought we had better things to think about ... And don't forget my kip."

"Oh Phil," Jill gasped, sensing a curtain-line approaching. "What are we going to do?"

Ah," Clarrie sighed, "innit joli, Eddie?" Clarrie and Eddie had been for a *petite promenade* on Lakey Hill to view the fields and farms of Pont d'Am. "I dunno, it's... it's comme un rêve. One minute we're worrying about not having the rent money, the next we're lords of all we behold, and all the Archers have to learn French and lump it. *C'est un* funny old world, Eddie."

"Funnier things have happened, Clarrie love. Remember the time when Nelson Gabriel was reported

BY A strange *coup de bonheur*, the next seven days of television are quite extraordinarily devoid of French content. No Maurice Chevalier movies, no *Love in the Afternoon*; no *Rapido*; no *nozzi*. Aside from sporting events — the French Open (tennis) and the European Championship (probably football) you would hardly know that France existed.

Not wishing to *jefer le manche après le cogter* (i.e. give up), I did find consolations for the Gallic-minded amid the smaller items in the *Radio Times*. For example, today you could watch Jerry Lewis on BBC2 (*The Disorderly Orderly*, 3.05pm), and try to imagine what the French see in him (it might help to hum the old song "Fifty Million Frenchmen can't be Wrong").

Tomorrow, we find that the finalists on *Mastermind* (BBC1, 8.35pm) have not chosen a French topic among them (*merde!*), and that *Root Into Europe* (ITV, 8.45pm) has left France for Italy, presumably with xenophobe extraordinaire Henry Root (played by George "Arthur Daley" Cole) now referring to all strangers (hilariously) as *Luigi*, instead of *Gaston*.

Monday brings dubious relief to the Francophile with *'Allo, 'Allo* (BBC1, 8.30pm), and at midnight Channel 4 kicks off a new series of *Taking Liberties* with Jacques Derrida, everybody's favourite living French deconstructionist. Asked in January by *The Times Higher Education Supplement* to contribute to a bit-of-fun anniversary item about the literary canon, Derrida replied in French, deconstructing the *THES* letter of request and not answering it. Good luck to interviewer Jonathan Ree on Monday night: things may get so deconstructed in the studio that everybody's trousers will fall down.

Tuesday sees "Money and Power in Provincial France" on *Open University* at midnight, also a French Canadian film, *Portion d'Eté* (Channel 4, 10pm) — billed as thought-provoking, which sounds like a euphemism to me.

Wednesday is when the Francophile should sit up and take notice, for on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (Channel 4, 5pm) Melanie Griffith and Don Johnson talk about their film, *Paradise*, based on the brilliant *Le Grand Chemin* (Jean-Loup Hubert, 1987). Fans of the original will have a great opportunity to hurl baguettes at this featherlight acting duo, and denounce a Hollywood remake that gives new meaning to the word *travesty*.

Thursday and Friday round off this whizzy French week, with a film, *Doctor Françoise Gaillard*, about lung cancer (ITV, Thursday 1.05am), and *Pardon My French*, a helpful language programme (ITV, Friday 11am). *Mieux vaut tard que jamais* (better late than never), as you might say.

L.T.

Here's the news, with celebrity status

The feminine style of a French newsreader has won the hearts — and ratings — of a captivated nation



The grizzled, after-hours crowds in the bars around the Paris Bourse sight appreciatively as Claire Chazal announces that the stock of some provincial chicken breeder has risen or fallen a few centimes. Across town, in 16th arrondissement cafés, sleek young women, fresh from exercise classes, grip their Perrier-Menthes and cry "C'est encore Dior!" as Mlle Chazal reports on a strip-mining project in Alsace.

Since Mlle Chazal began reading the news on France's main TF1 network, the ineluctably blasé French have been taking an unusual interest in current events. "This girl can make a drought warning sound erotic," Patrick Le Lay, TF1's president, is supposed to have murmured after he signed Mlle Chazal from a rival network at three times her old salary ...

What Mlle Chazal does, wears and thinks has become as newsworthy to the French as anything she reports. She has conferred instant stardom on her Parisian dressers (Joffo) and her country club (Miramas at Biarritz), and triggered a flood of curiosity about her background and lifestyle. The revelation that she was having an affair with Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, the twice-married sun崇拜 newscaster, caused a sensation in a country that traditionally has little interest in the private lives of celebrities. The overall effect is summed up in the popular press simply as "Chazalmania".

A cool, petite blonde with hazel eyes and the diction of a French Riviera Gardner, Mlle Chazal nevertheless represents a new direction



Très populaire: what Claire Chazal does, wears and thinks is as newsworthy as anything she reports

covering the Bourse, for France's second television network, Antenne 2. Television turned out to be the perfect medium for the blend of precision and sheer cuteness that is at the heart of Mlle Chazal's appeal. Last summer TF1 poached her for a reputed salary of £10,000 a year.

The ratings have soared, her new employers smirp over her as though she was the very future of television, and style magazines swoon over her "Grace Kelly looks", but Mlle Chazal has found

the "bimbo" tag hard to bury. Her lack of hard news experience and hesitant, back-peddling style of interviewing has provoked mutterings of dissen among more seasoned television hands.

Mlle Chazal is unrepentant. "At one time television viewers wanted to see a woman who was not only beautiful but cerebral, and that was undoubtedly Christine Ockrent," she says. "Today they want something a little softer, less aggressive, and perhaps that is me."

The formidable Ockrent — known to French television audiences as *La Reine Christine* — does not seem to entirely share this analysis. So far her most noteworthy comment on her young rival is that "Claire Chazal is always very well dressed."

Indeed she is. Her outfit, mostly by Dior, are scrutinised, analysed and copied to the extent that the "Chazal look" has become a distinct influence in French fashion. A few weeks ago when she wore a simple bee-shaped brooch, the jeweller was quickly identified, and stocks sold out within 24 hours.

Mlle Chazal's image is that of the ultimate "nappy", an acronym for

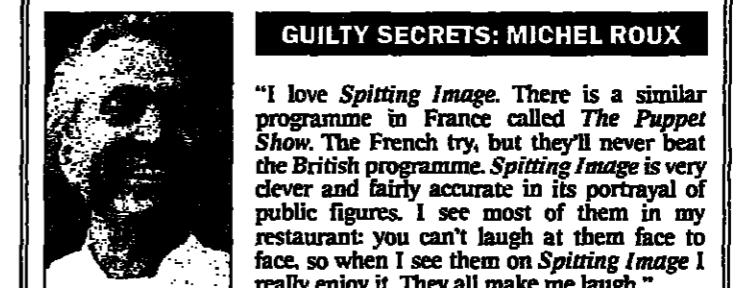
TOP 10 FRENCH PROGRAMMES

French television ratings for last week (May 25-31):

1 Evadé d'Alcatraz (film) (TF1)	9.5 million
2 Milou en Mai (film) (TF1)	9 million
3 Football match: Amical France/Suisse (TF1)	8 million
4 Variétés: Tous à la Une (TF1)	7.5 million
5 Formule 1 Grand Prix: Essais (TF1)	6 million
6 Une Marman dans la Ville (television) (A2)	6 million
7 Magie la Nuit des Héros (A2)	6 million
8 Soeurs Froides (film) (PR3)	5.5 million
9 Les Granges Brûlées (film) (PR3)	5.5 million
10 Magaz Cole Court (A2)	5.5 million

(Source: Mediamat Mediametric)

GUILTY SECRETS: MICHEL ROUX



"I love *Spitting Image*. There is a similar programme in France called *The Puppet Show*. The French try, but they'll never beat the British programme. *Spitting Image* is very clever and fairly accurate in its portrayal of public figures. I see most of them in my restaurants; you can't laugh at them face to face, so when I see them on *Spitting Image* I really enjoy it. They all make me laugh."

AFRICAN COASTAL CRUISE

Visiting Mombasa-Zanzibar-The Comores-Madagascar-Durban

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WILLIAM LANGLEY

Is Paris the pace-setter of Europe in opera and dance? Times critics John Percival and Rodney Milnes look at recent developments there



Sylvie Guillem: since the late Eighties, the most sought after dancer in the world

When Sylvie Guillem burst onto the stage of Covent Garden like an exotic fireball in the late Eighties, she did more than provide much-needed star power at the Royal Ballet. She also made French ballet famous again. For the first time in decades, the most sought-after dancer in the world was French, not Russian.

Indeed, you can forget other claims made for Russia: ballet as we know it began in France, where the company at the Paris Opéra has a history going back more than three centuries. What other country could produce a male dancer so famous that, when he appeared in London, parliament suspended its sitting rather than compete for members' attendance? That was Auguste Vestris in 1811, and over the years since then French dancers have never ceased to be among the best found anywhere, right through to Guillem today. And if Guillem has edged ahead of the competition, she left behind her in Paris a team of dancers that need fear no comparisons.

In terms of repertoire, too, the company has an unrivalled record. In the first half of the 19th century, Paris led the world in that respect: this is where *La Sylphide*, *Giselle* and many other famous works were created. Then St Petersburg began to take over, engaging many of the best French choreographers in the process: Didelot, Petipa, Saint-Léon, and Petipa. The Paris Opéra, like a sleeping beauty, lay slumbering for a whole century after the creation of *Coppélia* in 1871. Good French choreographers eventually

John Percival examines how the Paris Opéra Ballet re-established its historical pre-eminence in dance

also began to appear again, such as Roland Petit and Maurice Béjart, but they worked for their own companies.

When Rolf Liebermann was given a brief, and a budget, during the 1970s to put the Paris Opéra back on the artistic map of Europe, ballet began to bloom as much as opera. Liebermann's assistant Hugues Gall effectively ran the Ballet de l'Opéra during a decade that saw creations not just imported productions, by the American experimentalists Merce Cunningham, John Cage and Jasper Johns at one extreme, and the conservative Muscovite Yuri Grigorovich at the other. A link was forged with Balanchine and Jerome Robbins which brought in works from their Stravinsky and Ravel festivals in New York.

Ironically, though, it was a Russian, Rudolf Nureyev — who returned French ballet to its former world-leading status. He took over the Paris Opéra Ballet in 1983, and proceeded to build on the achievements of Liebermann and Rosella Hightower before him. His six years as artistic director saw the company transfigured. There has probably never been a ballet director who showed such knowledge, intelligence, courage and flair in choosing a repertoire.

Nureyev's aim was quite simple: to liberate his dancers to make the most of their talents by letting them taste the best of old traditions. They were given a breathtakingly audacious range of

works: the 19th century classics in demanding versions, many of the great works of this century, ballets chosen for their local connections, new productions based on historical dances, reconstructions of long-lost works, contemporary choreography not only by acknowledged masters but by the iconoclastic Robert Wilson and some of the young extreme avant-garde — French, American and British.

year relentlessly weeds out any who begin to lag behind.

Then, while students at the Royal Ballet School still have two or three more years of tuition ahead of them, their French opposite numbers join the company as apprentices. And once there, keenness is maintained through a system of promotion by annual competition: dancing two solos in front of a jury. With the opportunity this gives for quick promotion, every ambitious dancer wants to go on improving.

But the repertoire since Nureyev left has become less exciting. There are still some bold gestures, like next season's plan to present a traditional production of *Giselle* on alternate nights with Mats Ek's revolutionary treatment (already seen on British television with his own Cullberg Ballet) which sets Act II in a mental hospital.

There are also coups such as having acquired Jerome Robbins's masterly *Dances at a Gathering* this past season, a work Covent Garden used to perform but is no longer permitted. And Nureyev's production of the complete *La Bayadère*, promised for October, should be an eye-opener.

All the same, something of the buzz has gone. The programmes no longer have so much that can be seen in Paris and nowhere else. In Nureyev's time there, it could be seriously argued that the Ballet de l'Opéra was the best ballet company in the world, thanks to its combination of superb dancing and exceptional programmes. That argument would not hold water now: the question is whether this is a temporary dip or the beginning of a slide.

Not so much phantom as football

Rodney Milnes traces the political history of the Opéra Bastille

Whatever else you may wish to say about the French, they do get things done. In 1982 Mitterrand a stately pleasure dome decree his answer to the immortality stakes to the Centre Pompidou. Seven years and £350 million later, the Opéra Bastille opened for business more or less on time. It would be uncharitable to suggest that Paris didn't actually need a new opera house: it already had four in good working order. But Mitterrand wanted a new "opéra moderne et populaire" and *la gloire* is *la gloire*. How unlike the approach to arts funding of our own dear governments.

But a lot happened in those seven years. The right-wing Chirac government of 1986-8

wrought much mischief, and Chirac himself beefed up the profile of his rival Théâtre Musical de Paris at the Châtelet. The Salle Modulable, prestigious adjunct to the 2,700-seat Grande Salle at the Bastille, and capable of seating between 600 and 1,200 for anything from Baroque opera to experimental dance, was put on ice (it will not be ready before next year), and Chirac appointed Daniel Barenboim as overall artistic chief of the Bastille at a salary said to approach £700,000 — twice that of any comparable post in Europe.

Weeks later the returning socialist government appointed Mitterrand's friend Pierre Bergé, of Yves Saint Laurent.

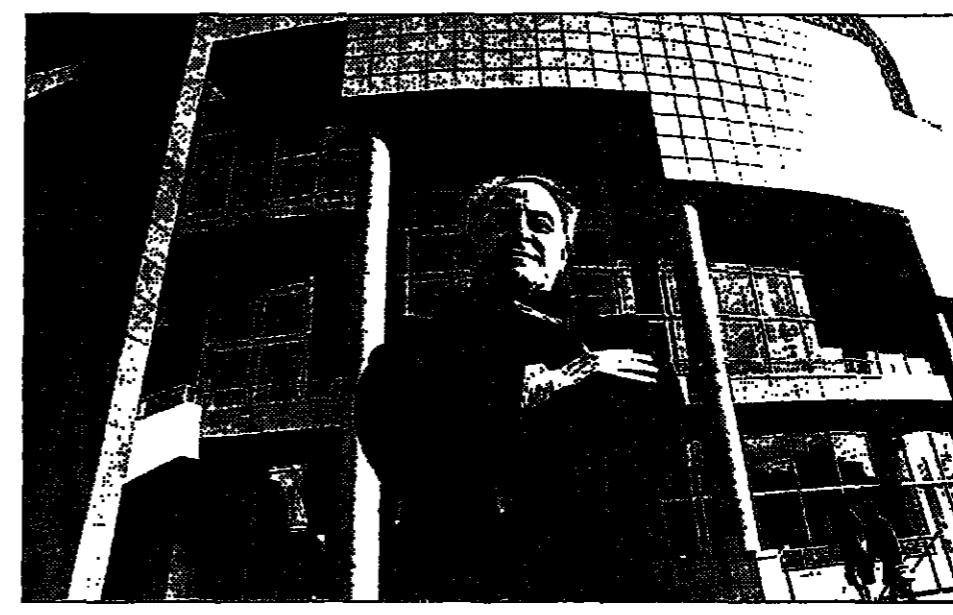
plants about Carlos Ortíz's winning design: as unwelcoming as a hospital, all height and no breadth (it's a curiously poky building for one so grand), not enough lavatories, insufficient gangway space and, inevitably, poor acoustics. Vocal and orchestral sound seem oddly separated, the voices equally oddly distant, depending on where you sit. A deficit of £31 million in the first year (despite a subsidy of £46 million, so unlike...) meant that Mitterrand's ideal of *opéra* prices had to be abandoned. Yet despite a 40 per cent increase a top ticket costs half that at Covent Garden.

For all the controversy surrounding the project — continuous vituperation in the French press, even a book — there are bright sides to it all. The appointment of Barenboim may have been questionable (he was comparatively inexperienced in the operatic repertory) but no one, not even the French press, questions the triumph of his rather more experienced successor, the young Korean conductor Myung Whun-Chung. He has earned the respect of all who work for him as well as

that of audiences through his seriousness and honesty.

And the Bastille is full, night after night, even for the current series of Bruckner concerts under Marek Janowski: it really was needed. What it is full for is another matter. One of Bergé's complaints about Barenboim's plans was that there was insufficient emphasis on the French repertoire. So Chung was being politically astute in quickly scraping together the first "complete" Paris performance of *Les Troyens* to open the house officially two years ago.

Since then the repertory has had a reach-me-down. Euro look: the inevitable *Otelio*, *Ballo in maschera* with Pavarotti, a be whiskered *Figaro* exhumed from the Palais Garnier, and several borrowed or shared stagings — a *Flying Angel* and *Elektra* from Los Angeles, a *Lady Macbeth of Mzensk* from the Scala, a *Boris* from Bologna. But there have been highlights: the Graham Vick *Re�� ascolto* from Covent Garden, a new Robert Wilson *d'Am au bûcher* with Isabelle Huppert and Rousset's *Padamavati* directed by Vick and with (a comparative rarity in Paris) a roster of French singers are just what one hopes the



President Mitterrand's choice as president: Pierre Bergé, outside the Opéra Bastille

disappointingly, the much vaunted stage machinery — ten side stages, movable proscenium, wall-to-wall revolves — has never been fully exploited.

But Chung's third season, starting this autumn, looks extremely promising on paper, not least on the French repertoire from Honegger's *Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher* with Isabelle Huppert and Rousset's *Padamavati* directed by Vick and with (a comparative rarity in Paris) a roster of French singers

are just what one hopes the

Bastille would be doing.

Messiaen's *Saint François d'Assise* comes in its Salzburg guise directed by Peter Sellars.

There will be a new *Benvenuto Cellini* with Chris Merritt and, at last, a new *Carmen*:

who knows, this time they might get it right for the first time since the golden age of the Opéra Comique.

After such truly operatic drama, the Bastille could just be starting to make sense.

After all, it has the first essential for a successful opera house — a hands-on musical

director — and acoustics are adaptable nowadays. The worrying thing is that the whole edifice could so easily come tumbling down. All that is needed is a change of President, which might come sooner than we think, and the vultures will descend: Bergé will be out, and so will the administrator Georges-François Hirsch, simply because he's there.

Even Chung would not be safe. Opera as a political football: is there an awful warning here?

Disturbed soldier on parade sends out conflicting signals

OPERA

Wozzeck
Châtelet, Paris

The Daniel Barenboim-Patrice Chéreau production of *Wozzeck* was originally destined for the Opéra Bastille before the great falling out: it opened instead to great acclaim at the rival Théâtre Musical de Paris at the Châtelet, *en route* for the Berlin State Opera (Barenboim's new field) and Chicago.

This was a curious evening. You should surely come out of *Wozzeck* feeling some reaction: angry, moved, purged, suicidal, something. I felt none of these things, merely that I had witnessed an intensely serious, meticulously prepared, clinically detached staging that deliberately set out not to engage the audience's feelings.

This was despite a framework that seemed to suggest the opposite: the performance took everyone by surprise, by starting with the house lights up and the Captain entering from the stalls to engage in his duet with Wozzeck on a bare stage with follow-spots (noth-

ing so "culinary" as a razor or shaving brush). *Doctor* and *Drum Major* also entered through the auditorium: at the end the orphaned child exited through the stalls and the lights came up long before the music finished. This opera is about you. Chéreau seemed to be saying. But it wasn't.

Richard Peazu's decor was based on a grey box through which geometric shapes like children's building blocks slid noiselessly on and off. Their muted colours were enhanced by Dominique Bruguière's exquisitely poetic lighting, and the whole had a glacial beauty to it, a cool, calculated chill that even spread over into some of Chéreau's groupings. Is this really what Bergé wanted?

Chéreau played the Captain and Doctor conventionally as expressionists' freaks, and in that context drew virtuous performances from Graham Clark and Günter von Känen respectively. Mark Baker, a fine singer but neither physically nor vocally a Helden tenor, Drum Major, completed a trio of antagonists that threw Franz Grundheber's superb *Wozzeck* into

sharp relief. He seemed in contrast a creature of sound common sense betrayed only by his inarticulateness and pushed over the edge after a campaign of calculated persecution. This reading works better if the persecutors are something more than freaks, and if you somehow get round the profoundly unsettling second scene of the opera, in which *Wozzeck* shows unmistakable symptoms of the Doctor's *aberratio mentalis*. Here, the pieces didn't quite fit.

Yet Chéreau and his protagonist certainly faced up to this scene, and Grundheber's most beautifully sung performance, acted with compelling dignity, was the evening's one indisputable success. Waltraud Meier's blessedly unsloggy Marie was also confidently sung and characterised with passionate directness: the Lullaby and the Bible-reading were the nearest the evening came to *Wozzeck*-as-expected.

Barenboim's carefully prepared reading with the Orchestre de Paris, slightly jerky rather than flowing, was compromised by the Châtelet's deep pit: it is not often that one wants more orchestral sound in *Wozzeck*, but such was the case. One certainly wanted more red corpuses than were on offer in this ice-cold, grey cerebral production.

RODNEY MILNES

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Angry old man

Deja Vu, John Osborne's sequel to *Look Back in Anger*, finally opens next week. Tomorrow, Osborne talks to The Sunday Times about the tortuous history of getting the play on

Lesley White interviews John Osborne, in The Sunday Times' Review tomorrow

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by George Farquhar

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Drawn by northern lights

Jonathan Meades
lets the sun-seekers
hurtle south and
lingers in beer-land

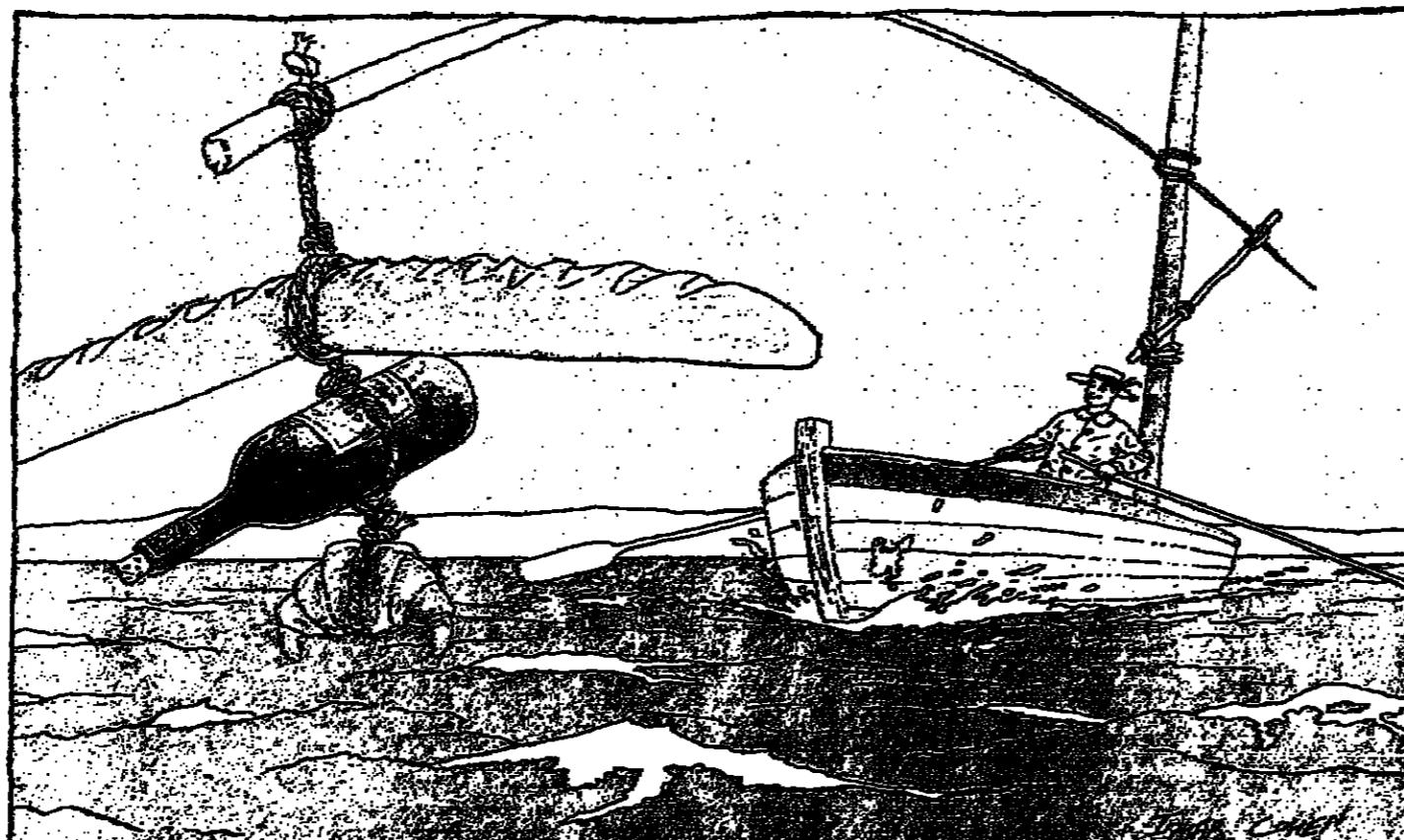
FRANCE is also fog, mines, flatlands, back to backs, beer. It is, too, a site of mass death, and that may be why the British race through the north, chasing the sun, forgetting that 75 years ago France meant mud, shrapnel and flu in the way that it now vulgarly means wine, garlic and the sweetness of life. I'm obviously making generalisations, but there can be little doubt that Arras, say, and Armentières (home of Mademoiselle) are less familiar to us than the Doordoor and Provence.

The Nord and the Pas de Calais are not part of the theme park France. Thankfully. Whether or not the absence of tourism makes much difference to the gastronomy of an area remains moot. Certainly there are restaurants in Lille — a city which is closer to London than Leeds (and also founded in textiles) — that have self-consciously revived Nordist cooking; maybe revue is to put it too strongly, for that city still has inhabitants who are what the Walloons call Nederlantophones. It is a recognisably Flemish city. I shall write about it later in the year.

Outside Lille one does not seek in vain for regional dishes, but they are by no means ubiquitous. French cooking has developed a tendency to look south — which does not accord too well with a kitchen based in strong cheeses, smoked meats, cured fish etc. These are things which do not necessarily demand wine. Indeed it might be said that they destroy wine. The traditional drinks are beer (of an alarming strength) and genever (dimo). Wine lists, even in grand restaurants, tend to eccentric inadequacy and vinous infanticide — but these are nowadays pan-Gallic norms. A list comprised solely of 1990s wines would be no surprise, and last week I found myself scrutinising lists in search of, say, a 1993 Chablis — this is, after all, a high-tech republic.

La Meumerie at Téteghem enjoys a reputation as one of the finest restaurants in the north. Its site — on the edge of an estate of executive boxes in the outer suburbs of Dunkirk — is an improbable one for an establishment of such ambitions. The building is undistinguished, signalled by a weird configuration of globe lights at the entrance. The interior is Modern French Grand Restaurant. That is to say it's a stew of decorator's solecisms. There's green grained wood; there's a column and a slice of pediment against a mirrored wall; there's a blackamoor electrolie; there is a job lot of paintings including a worrying *trompe l'oeil*. The grandiosity just about stays this side of overwhelming. The staff helps in this regard: there is a pleasant sommelier and he seems to set the tone of amiability and efficiency.

Just how ambitious an outfit this is may be quantitatively judged. Two



courses of amuse-bouches, and four plates of friandises. These multiple parentheses were impressive and the preplanned bits revealed the hand of a first-rate pastry chef. Puddings include apple in brick pastry, crêpes soufflées and a plate of chocolate confections. But there have to be question marks against several of the first courses and entrees. Duck in two services was disappointing — a bloody but not notably well-flavoured breast was followed by a filo parcel of allegedly confit meat which tasted of nothing but overcooked leg. This was not the only dish that was heavily herbed with dill. Foie gras got that treatment too, though with rather happier results. Salmon is coyly billed as neither cooked nor raw, neither hot nor cold. Its light parsley sauce was its saviour. Beef cheek is crisply cooked and sauced with the same meat, braised. The light pancakes served with it were buttery and delicious. Every dish is multiparite — there is a lot

without making a song and dance about so doing. It may not aim quite as high as La Meumerie, but its accomplishment of its main dishes is full.

This may of course be because the kitchen is not distracted by serial courses of amuse-bouches etc. The concentration of the core of the meal is total. And if the chef, Alain Lequy, doesn't receive his due desert in his own country it is, I fear, because he cooks rather than puts on a gastro-display. But here I am, *ce salaud d'anglaise*, to rectify all that. Three dishes in particular are to be praised to the sky. Sandre, pike-perch, is a delicate freshwater

combination of meat and cooking agent would be hard to imagine. L'Auberge Fleurie's local cheeses are lovely, and even those from distant Alsace have made the journey safely — the Munster is exemplary. The bread is indifferent, the service is excellent. The wine list is strong on champagne, which is almost the local tipple, but otherwise all over the place. Bordeaux vintages from the kindergarten are marked up prohibitively while a superb and spicy '83 Hermitage Rocheffe is flagged at a giveaway price. No doubt this says a lot about the ignorance of French drinkers. The restaurant is part of a small hotel which is only half as good as the restaurant is worth seeking.

Maubeuge was destroyed early in the war and rebuilt soon after, in a utilitarian modernist idiom. Here and there it rather resembles an east European garden city, and there are a couple of interesting, faintly expressionist churches. But most of it is lay-bys, dowdy social housing and traffic islands. Still, if mid-century urbanism is your cup of tea, this is one to notch up. It is also apparently one of Le Pen's northern strongholds.

The service at the risibly named Grand Hotel is memorably unpleasant. Two youths with cropped hair scowl and anglophobic attitudes served a by no means poor meal with a hostility and an insolence that must have been an effort to sustain. One of them wore a bracelet marked "France", in case he should forget his allegiance, no doubt. This was a shame for the place has a certain appeal — it is virtually unchanged from the day it opened 40 or so years ago, and its view of a lorry park and a petrol station certainly lend it *outriver* cred. Not, mind, that the prices are at that level. And when the cooking doesn't overreach itself it's pleasant.

Salmon is served raw with fragrant oil and another dressing based maybe on a thinned mayonnaise. It is cut like smoked salmon, in one thin, plate-wide slice. Coq à la bière in the version here is a revelation. The meat is dark, slowly braised for a long while in brown beer which is reduced to make a terrifically unctuous sauce: a finer

fish with a flavour quite unlike that of the bottom-feeding sander which, when hauled from a fennel drain, will taste of nothing but mud. That which M Leguy cooks tastes of clean streams. Where the clean streams might be is anybody's guess — the rivers over the Belgian border near Mons and Charleroi must be among the filthiest in western Europe. No matter. This is a superb fish and when done with a sauce based on the aged genever called *houille* it becomes a superb dish.

Salmon is served raw with fragrant oil and another dressing based maybe on a thinned mayonnaise. It is cut like smoked salmon, in one thin, plate-wide slice. Coq à la bière in the version here is a revelation. The meat is dark, slowly braised for a long while in brown beer which is reduced to make a terrifically unctuous sauce: a finer

ing. The kitchen does a fine tart of Maroilles cheese, pork with genever and juniper berries, chick-er waterzooi. Its composed salads are well made and so are its sweets. Some of the garnishing was bathetic — Bird's Eye pear in a hollowed tomato, that sort of thing. But some of the wines are bargains, e.g. a Connétable-Talbot from 1982.

A nother Grand Hotel, in Valenciennes, looks much more the part. This is an art deco wedding cake which is home to Le Lions Club de Valenciennes. The interior is intact and must have been impressive before the colour-blind restoration. The view of the railway station is magnificent — this is a 1900 pasie of Mansart and is an absolute must for amateurs of transport architecture of that period. I also recommend Metz. The station has a well-reputed SNCF buffet and it might have been wiser to eat there, for the Grand Hotel's kitchen is anything but grand. The local speciality, *langue Luculius*, turned out in this version to be a sad terrine of smoked tongue layered with insipid foie gras. The choucroute that succeeded it included gelatinous hunks of pig trotter and nettles of pig's ears. Oink.

La Meumerie
⑦ 174 rue Piennes, Téteghem 59229
Lunch Tues to Sun, dinner Tues to Sat.
Auberge Fleurie
③ 67 rue Général de Gaulle,
Sars-Poteries 59216
Lunch Tues to Sun, dinner Tues to Sat.
Le Grand Hotel
① 1 Porte de Paris, Maubeuge 59600
Lunch and dinner every day. £60.
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JONATHAN MEADES'S RESTAURANT GUIDE

Marks — up to a maximum of ten — are awarded for cooking and although these are intended to reflect value for money, they are not determined by this consideration alone: certain very costly restaurants are very good, certain very cheap ones are to All prices given are approximate — they are for a three-course meal for two, including modest wine and an aperitif. Dishes are mentioned only as an indication of repertoire, and are subject to frequent change. Reviews in this directory are distilled from articles previously published in the main column. It is not only courteous to illegal to dishonour bookings that goes for restaurants as well as customers. J.M.

FRANCE

Robert Abraham
③ 4 Chausse du Sillon, St Malo
(99 40 50 93)

The restaurant looks out to sea and to the little island called Grand Be where Chateaubriand is buried. M Abraham is a brilliant and audacious chef whose repertoire includes a number of dishes that revive the old Malouin practice of cooking with spices. Thus a galantine of leeks, mussels and onions is flavoured with coriander and a swedish masala. Raw, lightly marinated salmon is dressed with various aromatics. Guinea fowl is served in two ways: the breast is cooked in a salt crust, the leg is braised in black tea. Fine puddings: berries with what tastes like Pepsodent eggs, custard with citrus and caramel. Nice wine list, strong in Loires. Closed Sunday night and Monday but open all week in July and August. £70 plus.

Restaurant de Bricourt
⑥ 1 Rue Duguesclin, Cancale
(99 89 64 76)

The major French guides — Michelin, Gault Millau and Bonvin Gourmand — rate this higher than any other place for miles around. The early 19th century house is certainly charming and elegant. The exception is the service. The service is rather slow. And the cooking is admirable — which is the problem. One is more liable to marvel at the technical ingenuity of the chef than to actually enjoy his food. His cleverness is untempered by joy. You feel you are witness to a sort of demonstration. However, as modern temples of gastronomy go it is blessedly free of pomposity and not stupidly expensive. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday. £80.

La Cigale
③ 1 Rue du Capitaine, Paris 1
(43 26 82 82)

A delightful improbability. A building like a village hall converted into Marrakesh tent with carpets on the ceiling and brass trays on the wall. Some of the Moroccan cooking is not much the works: couscous with lamb, brochettes of mixed meats, chicken stew. The Algerian wine called *Coste de Maserai* is underpriced. Lunch and Sun, dinner Tues-Sun. £35.

La Rotonde
③ 1 Boulevard Chateaubriand,
Paris 14 (47 47 14 30)

An ancient hotel restaurant approached by way of a pale table and a curved bistro-style door. It is spotlessly sordid and of people who end up in funny interest stories. In *Le Paris et Paris* and *Français* Competent if incredibly basic but a thousand times better than you find on, say, the Isle of Wight. Oyster steaks, chips, simple soups are unexpected. Closed Sunday and Monday but open all week in July and August. £15 plus.

La Caspelle
③ 102 Boulevard Monceau, Paris 8
(43 26 14 30)

One of the greatest Parisian brasseries whose refurbishment in the late 1980s was not to all tastes — the pain of it years was stripped off, the place was lifted back to the cradle. For such an outfit — it seats about 500 — the cooking is surprisingly good, and much better than it was a decade or so ago. Not that the cooking or the service are what people come here for. They come because every night at this extraordinary place is an event. It's that simple. Open Sun 2am every day.

La Rose des Sables
③ Rue Anatole France, St Servan
(99 82 32 43)

A delightful improbability. A building like a village hall converted into Marrakesh tent with carpets on the ceiling and brass trays on the wall. Some of the Moroccan cooking is not much the works: couscous with lamb, brochettes of mixed meats, chicken stew. The Algerian wine called *Coste de Maserai* is underpriced. Lunch and Sun, dinner Tues-Sun. £35.

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Brasserie des Voyageurs
② Place Chateaubriand, St Malo
(99 56 45 39)

You can sit here and watch special export quality British yobs do their stuff. When Our Fins aren't strutting their pathetic stuff this square is filled with purposeful Local Colour: folk songsesses and their piping, Africans selling trad Senegalese sunglasses as worn by Ray Charles. Eat andouillette or steak with chips, and oysters. Lunch and dinner every day. £25.

Port Mer, Cancale
(99 39 65 65)

Friendly oyster restaurant which overlooks the bay of Mont St Michel. Its aspirations may be limited but it thoroughly achieves them. It serves massive quantities of raw shellfish (Cancale is an oyster town) and follows up with massive quantities of meat grilled over a log fire near the front door. Terrific chips. Lunch and dinner every day. £40.

Brasserie des Voyageurs
② Place Chateaubriand, St Malo
(99 56 45 39)

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French Connections

Raymond Blanc
"Food and wine is still very much at the centre of French culture. It is our only tradition that has survived the onslaught of the 20th century. The French have the capacity to really enjoy good food and good wine, whether it is a little meal at a little bistro for 70 francs, OK, or a family meal at home, or a wonderful meal in a three-star Michelin restaurant. Firstly they will enjoy it with sensuality — it will become a great celebration, a great event. And secondly, there will be no guilt attached

to it — just total enjoyment as a celebration of life. I feel great nostalgia when I think back to the simple, beautiful food my mother gave me as a child. I remember the amazing challenge of having to sit up straight at the table for two or three hours with the boring adults who were busy talking. Then the dessert would happen and it made it all worthwhile. The one I'll always remember is *les Flotantes*. It was beautiful then, and it's beautiful now thinking of it. That was an act of love..."

STEPHEN MARKS



Cider with everything: the Bannerman family in the cellar of their home in Normandy

240 mm.
Is our cuisine
too haute?



Beating the French at their own games

Two British families found they had acquired more than a home in France. Jane MacQuitty reports

Many English couples dream of escaping to France with the children, to live off the land and enjoy the Gallic good life. Few fulfil their French fantasies. Two who did, at opposite ends of the French country life spectrum, are the Bannermans of Normandy and the Johnson-Hills of Bordeaux.

Neither couple set out to beat the French at their own beverage game. But both fell in love with French rural life, adopted their region's liquor traditions and ended up by producing the best bottles on their patch. Neither has any regrets nor any intention of coming back to Blighty. Too idyllic to be true? Read on.

A Cambridge English degree followed by a stint at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School do not sound like ideal training for a master Pays d'Auge cider maker. But the actor, writer and poet Tim Bannerman, his wife Gill and their four children, Leo (19), Josh (11), Amy (eight), and Sam (six) know as much as their neighbours do about the ancient mysteries and arcane methods of traditional Normandy cider production.

The Bannermans moved to France in 1989 when they were compelled to leave a pretty Elizabethan farmhouse in Hampshire for somewhere cheaper. The sort of space and greenery they had been used to ruled out southern England and its high prices. France suddenly became an option: "It was really one of those

stick-a-pin-in-the-map sort of things," Mrs Bannerman says. "We came over to Caen for five days, drew a semi-circle on the door of a helpful estate agency in Lisieux and found the house on the first day. It was the third one we looked at." What the Bannermans saw was a half-timbered house complete with cider cellar and rusty old cider racks, in the middle of a typical, turn-of-the-century Norman village, opposite the church with about two sloping acres of cider orchard at the bottom of the garden. The house had everything they wanted, and stands at the heart of the finest Pays d'Auge cider country.

Three cider vintages later, the Bannermans, who learnt everything from the locals, are expecting their best cider harvest this winter. Cider production — "a complex ritual" is how they describe it — often runs as late as November and December, when top-notch varieties such as the prized *Noël des Champs* are picked by blue Bannerman fingers. A waning moon dictates the booking of the tractor-drawn and driven press that crunches and presses the Bannermans' bitter-sweet cider apples, producing as much as 1,700 litres of "an astoundingly sweet, dirty brown liquid". After a month or more of fermentation in open-topped old whisky barrels comes "the mind, soul and hand-numbing effort" of hand bottling in scrubbed old champagne bottles that have, the Bann-

ermans calculate, seen 50 recycled vintages of Pays d'Auge life, after their champagne baptism.

The result is a deliciously rustic, earthy, slightly *pétillant*, flower-appley brew that from the beginning was described by local people as what Normandy cider should taste like — and did, 20 years ago.

This year the Bannermans planted five new cider apple trees in their Normandy orchard, and only one eating apple tree.

Equally rural and remote, but in keeping with the more sophisticated traditions of the finest wine in France, are the Johnson-Hills in Bordeaux. With 12 vintages of Château Méaume, one of the right bank's top *petit château* Bordeaux Supérieur wines, behind them the Johnson-Hills are their best.

Like the Bannermans, Alan and Sue Johnson-Hill enjoy the creative but non-commercial, liquid French country way of life: "It's the nearest I can get to being an artist, with no artistic talents," Mr Johnson-Hill says. Also like the Bannermans, the Johnson-Hills' acquisition of a cellar and 50 acres of vineyards was a secondary consideration to their purchase of a French country house: "Based in Hong Kong, we wanted to return to Europe and I remember once sitting outside in the south of France on a warm, formative evening listening to the crickets chirping, drinking rosé and eating the region's cheese, thinking this is the life for me."

In the event it was Mrs Johnson-Hill who found and bought Méaume without her husband seeing it in late 1979. Owning a vineyard and making wine were thought to be side issues. First, on the plane from Hong Kong was the Johnson-Hills' great dane, incongruously named Puppy. Brought up by daughters Emma, Louise and Camilla, now adults. In order to learn how to run Méaume and its attractive, rambling château efficiently, Mr Johnson-Hill took a year off from his career in

finance to do every job on the property himself: "A blistering process for my hands."

Given Bordeaux's high-tech 1980s era, and the many scientific skills now needed to make great wine, the Johnson-Hills wisely hired leading left-bank oenologist Michel Rolland to help them. With about 70 per cent of Méaume's vineyards planted to the merlot grape, 20 per cent to cabernet franc

Lessons in taste I'll never forget

Frances Bissell, the *Times* cook, recreates some of the dishes she discovered as a young *assistante* in southwest France



THE first meal I ever ate in France is still vivid in my memory. It was a warm day in the year of les élections de mai, and I had arrived in Albi, near Toulouse, on the overnight train from Paris to begin a year at the Ecole Normale as *assistante*. After meeting the formidable *directrice*, I was taken into the dining room for a solitary lunch.

It was late enough in the year not to bother with shutters, and the tall, generously proportioned windows let in the afternoon sun. About 20 round tables with bentwood chairs were arranged around the cool, tiled floor of the room. At one end was a long, wooden dresser on which woven red and green napkins and tablecloths were piled next to water jugs, bread baskets and litre bottles of red wine. The *table des prof* was laid for one. I was given a crisp napkin and a bread basket lined with a red linen cloth containing a newly baked baguette, chopped into pieces by the guillotine on the sideboard. I poured a glass of the rough red wine from Labastide de Levis and ate the *blanquette de veau* put in front of me, followed by a perfectly ripe Passecrassane pear and a slice of Cantal. All this was a hint of what was to come in this tranquil building, where the chef was paid more than the principal. This young man, not long out of his apprenticeship, was already well known in the region for the banquets he prepared when off duty for christenings and first communions. He was not generous with his recipes and tuition, but would allow me into his kitchen to watch what he was cooking.

The experience of that year was very important to me, and I could not help being influenced by it. I learnt about food that was new to me: mussels, oysters, sweetbreads, brains, skate and choucroute, and the Languedoc specialties of confit, cassoulet and *brandade de morue*.

The school was small, not many more than 100 students and staff, and we ate wonderful food. At this time of year, especially on Sundays, when most of the boarders had gone home, chef would give us asparagus with sauce mouseline, a whole poached salmon garnished with cucumber slices and lightly jellied stock, followed by home-

made ice-cream. We would still drink the same coarse wine though. Only on birthdays would we club together to buy a bottle of champagne and gâteaux for an afternoon *vin d'honneur*. "We", I should add, were the *assistante*, the three *surveillantes* and the assistant housekeeper.

Sometimes I would go off with my friend Michèle to her family in the country, where I learnt about wild mushrooms, which we would gather in the field nearby, toss in butter and serve for supper with an *omelette aux fines herbes*, followed by *reines claudes à l'eau de vie*.

My year at Albi taught me a great deal about food, taste, seasonality, and the importance of choosing the very best ingredients one afford.

The recipes that follow are not fashionable, just very good, full of flavour and texture. I do not advise having the *fricassée* and the *œufs à la neige* at the same meal — you might find yourself experiencing the "strings" from the celery and cut into long, thin strips. Cut the tomatoes into dice.

Remove the chicken from the liquid, and poach the vegetables in the stock for 3-4 minutes until tender, and then remove. Soak the gelatine in the reserved stock until soft and then stir it into the warm stock until thoroughly dissolved.

To assemble, take a 1½-2lb/750g/1kg loaf tin and wet it. Put a little stock into the tin and lay in it enough bacon to cover. Allow to set. Lay the carrots and celery on top and pour in more stock. When this has set, lay the chicken pieces on top, and pour in enough stock to just cover. When this has set add the final layer, the peas and diced tomato and the rest of the stock. Allow to set in the refrigerator. To serve, turn the terrine and slice.

Court-bouillon

7oz/200ml water or vegetable stock
3½oz/100ml extra virgin olive oil
juice of 2 lemons or 3½oz/100ml dry white wine
1 bouquet garni: a piece of fennel, a celery top, sprig of thyme and one bay leaf, tied together
1tbsp coriander seeds
1tsp coarse sea salt
½tsp white peppercorns

Bring to the boil and simmer for 5 minutes and then cook the vegetables in it for as long as necessary. Strain them and, when cool, mix together again with some of the cooking liquid. Note: This is an extremely good court-bouillon for poaching fish, such as mackerel or salmon fillets, and for chicken.

Paon en gelée aux légumes (serves 4-6)

1lb/455g free-range chicken breasts, skinned and boned
1pt/570ml seasoned chicken or vegetable stock
3oz/85g fine green beans
3oz/85g celery
2-3oz/60-85g shelled peas
3oz/85g peeled, seeded tomatoes
4 sheets of leaf gelatine
To serve
salad leaves
watercress or tomato sauce

Trim the chicken and cut it into long strips about the same thickness as the fillets under the breast. Put three-quarters of the stock into a saucepan and gently poach the chicken for 5 minutes, allowing it to cool in the liquid. Top and tail the beans. Peel the carrots and shave into long thin strips, and then into fine matchsticks. Remove the "strings" from the celery and cut into long, thin strips. Cut the tomatoes into dice.

Remove the chicken from the liquid, and poach the vegetables in the stock for 3-4 minutes until tender, and then remove. Soak the gelatine in the reserved stock until soft and then stir it into the warm stock until thoroughly dissolved.

To assemble, take a 1½-2lb/750g/1kg loaf tin and wet it. Put a little stock into the tin and lay in it enough bacon to cover. Allow to set. Lay the carrots and celery on top and pour in more stock. When this has set, lay the chicken pieces on top, and pour in enough stock to just cover. When this has set add the final layer, the peas and diced tomato and the rest of the stock. Allow to set in the refrigerator. To serve, turn the terrine and slice.

Fricassée de poulet ménager (serves 4-6)

4lb/1.8kg free-range chicken
2oz/60g unsalted butter
small wine glass/about 100ml good dry white wine
1pt/500ml boiling water
20 small pickled onions, peeled and blanched
1 bouquet garni (a sprig of parsley, a bay leaf and some thyme, tied together)
1tsp coarse sea salt
freshly ground black pepper
2tbsp flour
20 button mushrooms or, if you can get them, fresh morels

Joint the chicken into eight pieces and put them in a casserole with half the butter and the wine. Cover and cook over a moderate heat until the white wine has almost evaporated, and then add the water, the onions, the bouquet garni and the seasoning. Simmer for 8-10 minutes. Meanwhile, mix the flour with a little cold water and then, when smooth, with a little of the boiling pan juices. Stir the flour paste into the casserole, half cover with the lid, and cook over a moderate heat for 25-30 minutes, or until the chicken is thoroughly cooked. Meanwhile, quickly fry the mushrooms in the remaining butter, add to the casserole, and reduce



Œufs à la neige (serves 4-6)

2 free-range egg yolks
finely chopped parsley
1pt/570ml full cream milk
1 vanilla pod

the heat once the chicken has cooked. Just before serving, enrich the sauce further by beating the egg yolks into a little of the boiling sauce, and then returning it to the casserole. Mix thoroughly. Sprinkle with parsley, and serve, either from the casserole or on heated plates. Steamed new potatoes, rice or fresh noodles are all excellent accompaniments. Note: cream or stabilised yoghurt can be used in place of the egg yolks to enrich the sauce. If you disapprove of flour-thickened sauces, leave it out.

Œufs à la neige (serves 4-6)

3 free-range eggs
3½oz/100g vanilla sugar (icing sugar or caster sugar in which vanilla pods have been stored)

Joint the chicken into eight pieces and put them in a casserole with half the butter and the wine. Cover and cook over a moderate heat until the white wine has almost evaporated, and then add the water, the onions, the bouquet garni and the seasoning. Simmer for 8-10 minutes. Meanwhile, mix the flour with a little cold water and then, when smooth, with a little of the boiling pan juices. Stir the flour paste into the casserole, half cover with the lid, and cook over a moderate heat for 25-30 minutes, or until the chicken is thoroughly cooked. Meanwhile, quickly fry the mushrooms in the remaining butter, add to the casserole, and reduce

the whites to firm peaks with the sugar. In a shallow pan, such as a deep frying pan or sauté pan, bring the milk to the boil. Make "egg" shapes of meringue with two tablespoons, and place them in the simmering milk. Poach for 2 minutes, and then gently turn the meringues over with two forks. When they are firm to the touch, remove them with a slotted spoon, and drain them on a clean tea-towel.

With the milk and egg yolks and a little more sugar, make a custard of pouring consistency, and pour it into a glass bowl. Float the meringues on top and serve chilled.

SOME of the best loved French dishes are so regional that it is well nigh impossible to recreate them in our kitchens. For example, unless you can find *rascasse*, *rouquilles*, and *girelles* and the sea water to rinse them in, it is best to leave *boeuf à la mode* to the *marseillais*. This aside, there are many favourite French dishes to be explored. There are the classics of *haute cuisine*, with hundreds of ways of preparing sole, and *cuisine du terroir*, once again in vogue, producing many rustic and regional dishes. Everyday dishes of *cuisine familiale* or *cuisine bonne femme* are a delight too.

Over the next few weeks I will dip into all these repertoires, acquired over 25 years of living in and visiting France. As a start, who can remember what a real quiche tastes like?



GREAT CLASSICS

like? Quiche long ago went the way that fresh pasta is in danger of going now, completely removed from the simple original recipe. Quiche Lorraine does not have, and never has had, cheese in it. It is a savoury custard tart, flavoured with small chunks of fried, smoked bacon. Traditionally it is served as a first course, warm and within half an hour of being removed from the oven.

Quiche Lorraine

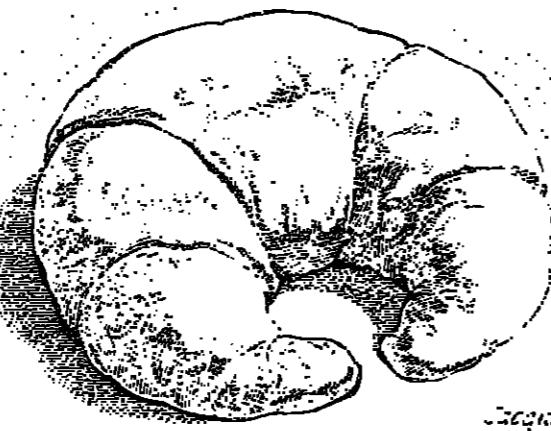
(serves 4-6)

7oz/200g plain flour, sifted
2oz/60g butter
1½oz/40g lard
pinch of salt
iced water
6oz/140g smoked bacon in a piece
¾pt/430ml single cream or crème fraîche
2 free-range eggs

Make a shortcrust pastry with the flour, fat, salt and just enough water to bind it together. Let the pastry rest for an hour. Discard the bacon rind, dice the bacon, and fry for a few minutes to render some of the fat. Drain the bacon on paper towels. Roll out the pastry and use it to line an 8in/20.5cm tart tin. Scatter the bits of bacon over the bottom of the tart. Beat the cream and eggs together and pour it into the pastry case. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 200C/400F, gas mark 6 for 10 minutes, and then turn down to 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for a further 20-30 minutes, until the custard is just set. Remove from the oven.

Creative twists for croissants

Chefs turn the humble breakfast pastry into an anytime canapé



THE most boring thing you can do with a croissant is to dip it in your *café au lait*. The humble centrepiece of the continental breakfast, introduced to France (from Vienna) by Marie-Antoinette, has made the culinary leap off the breakfast plate into the Glyndebourne hamper and the canapé tray. Reinhard Kellner, chef of the gourmet delicatessen Les Spécialités St Quentin, says: "Croissants are the perfect, anytime snack." His repertoire of creative croissants include fillings of Gruyère cheese, smoked salmon, cooked ham, or, for the sweet-toothed, a light raspberry coulis.

You may have become prejudiced against exotic croissants by the rapidly expanding chains of croissantries, but by following the suggestions of some of today's most imaginative chefs, they can be elevated to gourmet status.

Ideally, bake your own croissants, for optimum freshness and to infuse the light, flaky pastry with the flavours of your chosen fillings. (As a short cut, try Pillbury's Hot-Bake Croissant Dough, 99p for 308g, from Sainsbury's.)

Another Edelman, of the Savoy, fills croissants with a not-too-runny leek and ham sauce. "A finely diced *foie gras mousse*".

Restaurateur Michel Roux

treats them "like a sophisticated sandwich bread" and proposes an extravagant filling — "a light *foie gras mousse*".

Another Roux treat is a slice of Emmental or Cantal cheese.

"nothing too strong or soft".

Lorna Wing, the party caterer, often proffers mini-croissants as canapés, served hot or cold. Inventive fillings include

enough to smear over the croissant, inside and on top. Sprinkle with slivered almonds and bake in a 160C oven until brown, which takes about ten minutes."

Antonio Carluccio, of the Neal Street Restaurant, Covent Garden, London, gives the croissant an Italian twist, tucking in tiny cubes of mozzarella and parma ham before baking. Carluccio's passion for fungi produced a mushroom croissant recipe. "Make a ragout with a mixture of seasonal mushrooms sautéed in a little butter with a hint of garlic and abundant parsley, spooned into the middle of the croissant when cooked."

"Supermarket croissants can be very good," says Henrietta Green, author of *New Country Kitchen* (Conran/Octopus, £20), "but if they need to be 'revived', brush lightly with melted butter and place in a medium-hot oven for ten minutes."

"She fills them with baked asparagus brushed with oil and sea salt, places them on a lightly oiled tray, and cooks for ten minutes at 170C. For pudding — or an exotic breakfast — she marinates small strawberries in orange juice, drains, then places them inside the croissant on a bed of whipped double cream, chopped mint leaves and orange zest."

JOSEPHINE FAIRLEY

chèvre, pesto and sun-dried tomatoes, or duck liver pâté, cornichons, black olives and silverskin onions. She also substitutes croissants for the wafer-thin Chinese pancakes wrapped around Peking duck.

Anne Willan, the owner of La Varenne, the professional cook's school at the Château du Fey, and author of the new *Look & Cook* guides published by Dorling Kindersley, creates almond croissants. "Slice then dribble each half with 1-2tbsp sugar syrup, created by melting equal parts of sugar with water. Beat a little more sugar syrup into 2tbsp almond spread (marzipan) until it's soft.

Escalopes de Veau Orloff (serves 4-6)

14oz/400g veal cut for schnitzel or escalopes
1oz/50g butter
small liver pâté (not of course, foie gras)
4oz/100g cooked rice
4oz/100g onions
4oz/100g mushrooms
3tbsp brandy
2tbsp grated Parmesan cheese

Beat out the veal to ¼in/3mm thick. Then cut in pieces ½in/3cm square. Fry each side for 30 seconds in hot butter, and drain. Process the rice, onions and mushrooms, and season well. Spread each veal piece with liver pâté. Pile the onion mixture nearly over top. Place on an ovenproof platter and sprinkle with brandy. Bake in the oven at 180C for about 15 minutes until the cheese is golden.

This week and next *The Times* is offering readers half-price accommodation at 100 French hotels — each with a wine list to savour

Picking the best for the guests

HOW DO YOU choose a good wine list that you can present throughout the year, in all the hotels in a large chain?

Mercure Hotels begins the process in August each year, when it invites offers from wine producers in Burgundy, Bordeaux and the Côtes du Rhône. There are important criteria to be fulfilled at this early stage: an existing reputation, reasonable prices and, not to be forgotten, guarantee of a sufficient volume of the wine for it not to run out before Christmas.

While the wine-makers are busy bringing in the new harvest, M Bertrand Lebuge, chef de produit at Mercure Hotels, studies the offers, and in October, when the harvesters have mopped their brows, he sets up a tasting of candidate-wines.

A large party of wine experts, wine journalists, connoisseurs and ordinary drinkers gathers first in Lyons for the Burgundy, then in Bordeaux for the claret. The wine experts, incidentally, fall into two divisions: the oenologists and the sommeliers. The first are the technical experts, the chemists of wine; the second are the masters of the palate — they have "more of the poet in them" says M



A nose for quality: sampling the vintage in the Jura

HOW TO BOOK

Over the next 12 weeks *The Times* is presenting a season of accommodation and travel offers to help you to rediscover France. Our Passport to France series gives readers the exclusive opportunity to enjoy some of the finest hotels in the country. *Times* readers are offered as much as 50 per cent off the standard tariff at their choice of a hundred hotels throughout France this summer.

This superb offer with Mercure and Altea Hotels enables you to plan a family holiday, stop over on business, or simply relax with a weekend break. Whatever your choice, you could pay as little as FF200 (about £20) per night for a family of four.

You will need to collect ten different tokens from those printed in both *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and Saturday June 13.

The offer is available at participating Mercure and Altea hotels from June 20.

THE British have some very entrenched opinions about French attitudes to food. The good-home-cooking addict shudders at foreign ways with slimy things, snails and frogs, whereas the more sophisticated hold that the French have been granted divine revelation in these matters. But even those will conclude: "Of course, they don't give a damn about the animals they eat."

French callousness is legendary in the British mind, but the ugly truth is that cruelty to pets and farm animals in this country is rising sharply. On the larger farms, agribusiness has reduced the animal/human contact to a matter of profit margins, which take no account of either callousness or kindness.

Food, in France, has not yet been presented from the animal's point of view, but Britain has a chance to influence welfare standards throughout the European community by pointing out the inherent cruelty of certain

Your chance to sail to France half-price with Hoverseas SeaCat on Monday in *The Times* we start the first of our Passport to France travel offers — see *The Sunday Times* for details



The charm of café culture

They are down in numbers but strong on literary history. Robin Young dawdles through some of Paris's remaining cafés

The life support system of French culture is the café. Where English and Irish poets, playwrights and prodigies look to the pub for consolation, comfort and company, in France the ready refuge which serves as an instant source of inspiration and inebriation has traditionally been the café.

Now the French café is under threat. Victims of economists' changing lifestyles and fast-food franchises which gobble up street frontages, French cafés have been reduced in number by 70 per cent since 1920.

Paris nine years ago had 12,000 cafés. Now, according to Robert Henry, vice-president of their trade syndicate, there are fewer than 5,000. Part of the trouble is that cafés encourage customers to dawdle. A Parisian café operating at customary speed might serve only a few dozen customers in the time a McDonald's or a Quick burger restaurant feeds a thousand. In bidding for prime commercial sites on busy streets and strategic corners, it is an unequal contest.

Look at the Champs-Elysées, and it is easy to see the result. Fast-food outlets proliferate, and to save Fouquet's from becoming another Jack Lang, the culture minister, had to declare the establishment a cultural monument in 1988. But then Fouquet's, where James Joyce dined regularly in the 1930s, has long been a fashionable restaurant rather than a café, and now has branches at La Défense and alongside the Opéra Bastille.

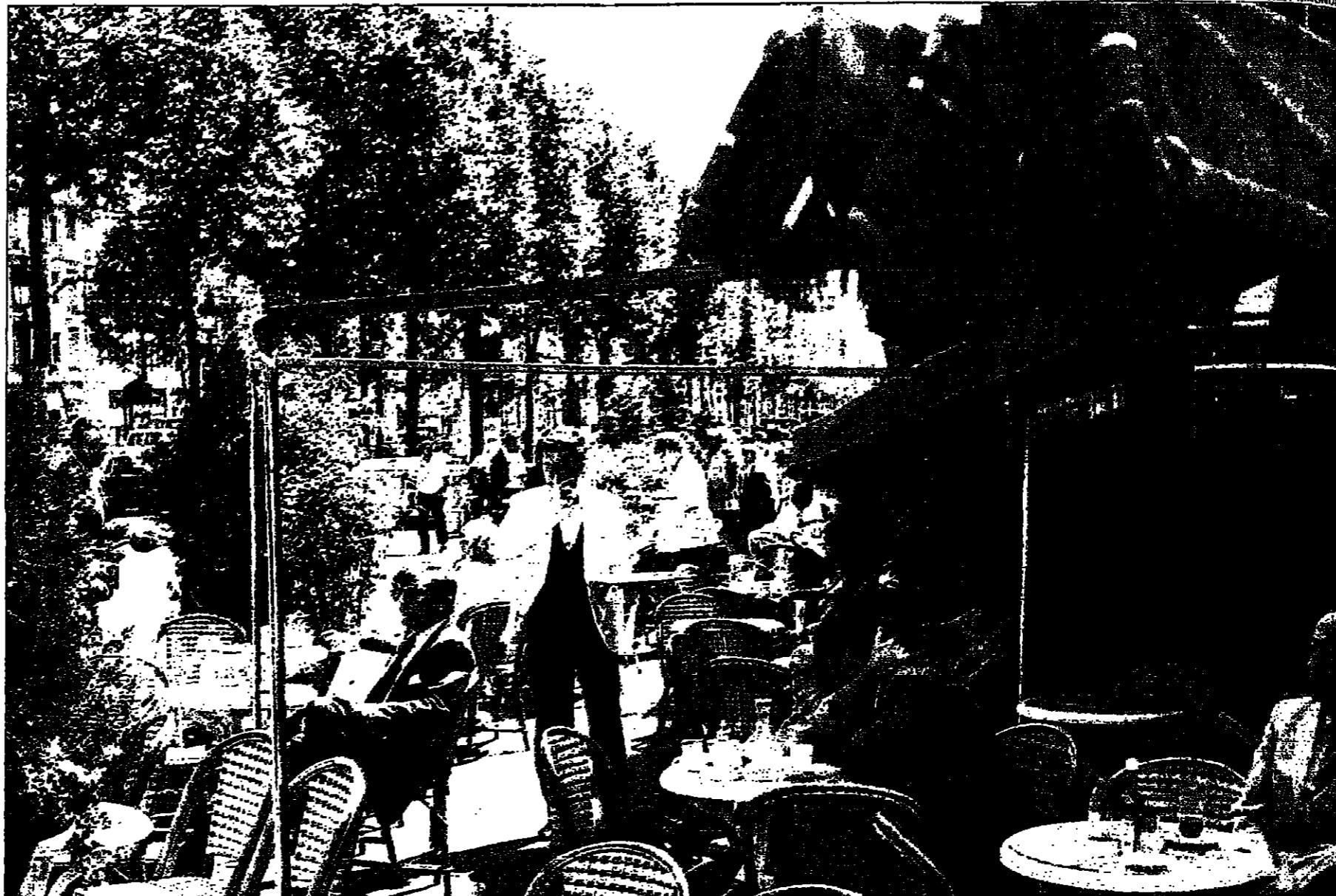
Some other Parisian cafés which have become national institutions have undergone similar transformations. The oldest of all, Le Procope, where Voltaire allegedly drank 40 cups of coffee a day, has been in the rue de l'Ancienne-Comédie since 1686, but it continues now as a restaurant, tattered up

in boudoir pink for the tourists, flaunting its associations with Benjamin Franklin, Rousseau and Beaumarchais, Robespierre and Danton, but offering, I thought, mediocre food on its FFr69 and FFr98 menus (about £7 and £10).

In Montparnasse the Café du Dôme has a décor by Slavik featuring dark wood, mirrors and brass and looks like a film set. But look closely at the peachy gauze drapes and you realise they are tatty and overdue for a trip to the laundry. The Dôme has spawned a fish shop behind, and a glitzy little fish bistro on the other side of Rue Delambre, but a test meal in the room which used to serve Sarre, de Beauvoir and Beckett revealed two sad cases of scallop abuse: one overcooked, one raw, and cost us FFr578.

Across the Boulevard du Montparnasse is La Rotonde, whose management gave Le Dôme its first incursion of intellectual clientele by refusing to serve a lady who was smoking and not wearing a hat. That provoked a migration across the street. Simone de Beauvoir was born in the building upstairs, and Hemingway, who became a regular, had Jake Barnes in *The Sun Also Rises* say that "no maner what café in Montparnasse you ask a taxi driver to bring you to from the right bank of the river, they always take you to the Rotonde". They would not be doing you any special favour today: La Rotonde has become an honest but ordinary, red plush brasserie.

Its greatest advantage is a terrace which gets all the best of the sun. An acceptable test meal of oxtail terrine, steak tartare and chips, beer and coffee cost FFr80. Three doors down from Le Dôme, La Coupole was always a brasserie, serving moderately priced meals near the popular Montparnasse drinking places.



Service in the slow lane: cafés are outnumbered by fast-food restaurants on the Champs-Elysées, but many prefer the relaxed pace of France's traditional comfort stops

León-Paul Fargue described it as "the pavement university where young poets and painters learnt the bohemian life, contempt for the middle classes, humour, and how to hold a glass". Completely rebuilt since 1988 and fully restored and reinstated in a new, enlarged building, La Coupole has swiftly reclaimed its place as college dining hall to all Paris. With seats for 600, it still often has queues.

The décor has been faithfully revived, the service is brisk and friendly, the menu revised at every meal time, and the cooking is reliably good. What you spend will depend on how much you eat but will never be exorbitant. I can recommend the *fruits de mer*, *croustillant de ris de veau*, the breadcrumbed pigs' trotter (*pied de porc pané*) and caramelised orange tart. A call at La Coupole should be on everyone's Paris itinerary. It would be nice, though, if they

could also find time for Le Sélect, where an inebriated Hart Crane was arrested and whence Isadora Duncan led her protest against the Sacco and Vanzetti death sentences. Le Sélect is now the least changed of all the Montparnassian literary shrines.

It calls itself (at night in rather startling lilac and green neon lights) an American Bar (which only means it has tables). It is, in fact, a café of unconstructed style, with Madame Sélect still seated on her high chair opposite the entrance. There are paintings, photographs and posters on the walls, a *pointe culture* distributes leaflets for concerts and art exhibitions, and the Menu Sélect (*hors d'œuvre, plat du jour and a glass of house red*) is FFr98.

At either end of Boulevard du Montparnasse the Café François Coppée at 1bis, is now very ordinary but La Closerie des Lilas

at No 171, a coaching inn before it attracted Hemingway and Samuel Beckett, still has a lot of charm, with its open terrace for expensive coffee, a brasserie on the Montparnasse side and a formal (and disappointing, though full) restaurant toward Notre-Dame-des-Champs.

Another concentration of left bank literary cafés is at St-Germain-des-Prés. Inevitably tourists flock to the Café des Deux-Magots, incomparably sit at its busy corner with a full view of the church. The poets Verlaine, Rambaud and Mallarmé came here regularly, as later did Oscar Wilde, André Breton and Jean Giraudoux, and the Deux-Magots retains its literary connections assiduously, sponsoring a literary prize. Deux-Magots is a good place for power breakfasts (*complet FFr70*), but not cheap.

Two doors away is the Café de

Flore, where Apollinaire founded *Les Soirées de Paris*. During the war Satre and de Beauvoir more or less set up home here, working at tables beside the toilets and the telephones in the quiet room on the first floor. Now the Flore has a souvenir shop a couple of doors down the Rue St-Benoît. The worn red banquets of the ground-floor room no longer host meetings of the Pouilly Club de France (members: Lawrence Durrell, Truman Capote, Ernest Hemingway, but there are usually people scribbling in notebooks or pads. Of course, it might only be a travel diary.

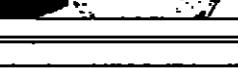
Down Rue St-Benoît has lapsed from a good local brasserie to a very so-so restaurant, but across the Boulevard St-Germain the Brasserie Lipp remains a classic of the genre. Lipp remains different in style from La Coupole. Where La Coupole is as public as a railway station, Lipp,

haven of politicians and journalists, is discreet and conspiratorial.

A previous owner of Lipp won the *Legion d'Honneur* for running the best literary salon in Paris. Earlier, the *Nouvelle Revue Française* was headquartered here. The good news is that Lipp is still a classic Alsatian brasserie. The specialities are simple and traditional dishes, such as baltic herring and *cervelas remoulade* (both FFr30) and *jarret de porc aux lentilles* (FFr84) and *choucroute garnie* (FFr39). All are served in overfacing quantities.

Ernest Hemingway thought "hunger was good discipline". He recounted in *A Moveable Feast* how Sylvia Beach, the owner of the famous bookshop Shakespeare and Company, met him during one of the fasts he undertook to gear himself up to write, and promptly packed him off to Lipp to get a good lunch. It would still be an admirable prescription.

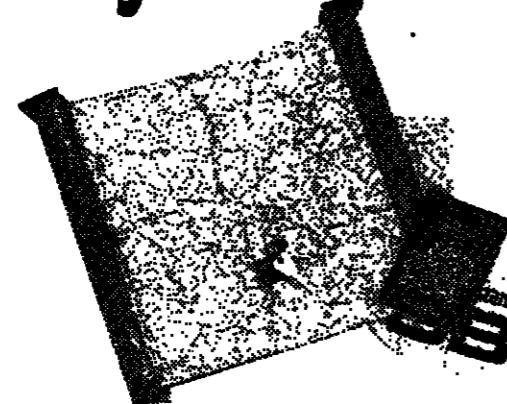
Boules gets on the ball



FRENCH CONNECTIONS

Charlotte Rampling:
"Paris is what enchants me most about France, and that's why I live close by. I'm a solitary creature and I don't like having much of a social life. Some people get a sense of well-being from living in the country, but although I love nature, I need that feeling of being anonymous in a crowd. I like taking the Metro into the city and wandering around, mingling with the crowds. I walk for miles, stopping off at art galleries and cafés, and I often take a notebook and write down my thoughts and general observations. I find it very inspiring. I've lived in many cities — New York, LA, Rome, Milan and London — but Paris is where I feel most at home, especially in a creative sense. I once lived in the south of France, but I didn't like it at all. I felt terribly cut off from reality there."

Ferry booked!



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Gastronome's guide to shopping

Frances Bissell suggests where to go if, like her, you are more interested in food than fashion

There are at least three ways I know of to get the best out of shopping in Paris, or at least the kind of shopping I like, which has everything to do with the kitchen and nothing to do with the wardrobe, although it usually involves a detour or two past a perfumerie.

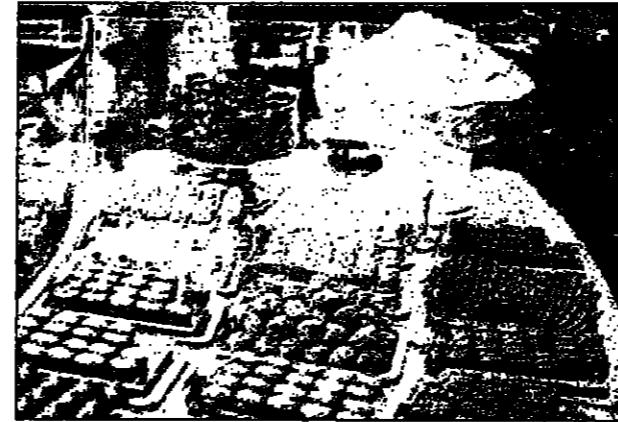
One method is to target all or some of the department stores. BHV or Bazar de l'Hôtel de Ville and La Samaritaine are relatively close to each other, the first at 52 rue de Rivoli and the second by the river at 19 rue de la Monnaie. Cookware, kitchen gadgets, table linen and hardware are the things to look for in these lovely turn-of-the-century buildings.

Behind l'Opéra in Boulevard Haussmann, Le Printemps and Galeries Lafayette are close enough to tackle in the same morning. Prisunic, Inno and Monoprix the cheap and cheerful as opposed to the *chic et cher*, are to be found throughout Paris. Monoprix, on L'Avenue de l'Opéra, is centrally situated, and both the *alimentation* and kitchenware sections are small but reasonably well stocked and useful if you are staying nearby.

Inno, opposite the Tour Montparnasse, which also has a branch of Galeries Lafayette, is larger and with a wider range of stock. This is the place to look for the new Puget olive oil *primeur*, made from slightly immature olives, green, fruity and peppery, about FFr20 (£2) for half a litre.

The best food hall in a department store is at Au Bon Marché, 22 rue de Sévres. Petits pois, cassoulet, confit, flageolets, lentilles du Puy, the packet of chichory that lasts for years and years, bitter dark chocolate, vanilla pods, the highly coloured boxes of sugar with the picture of the parrot, nut oils and aged vinegars are all to be found here. If you only have time for a one-stop shop in Paris, this is the place to do it. But it is easy to get carried away. What are you going to do with that poulet de Bresse (about FFr100 for a fairly small bird), the pots of crème fraîche, the net of irresistible Belle de Fontenay potatoes, the blushing apricots, the huge bunches of fresh herbs?

If you only have time for a quick shop, for goodness sake



Chocoholics anonymous: Paris is the place for the chocolate connoisseur; or perhaps (right) you would prefer a cake



Running for t



Specialist's choice: displaying cheese for every occasion

do not step out of Au Bon Marché into rue du Bac. This is possibly everyone's favourite street. Paris has a special feature wherever you stay: it is part of a neighbourhood, for this is a place where the inhabitants do live in the city. As a result, all the necessities of daily life are outside your front door. There will be a boulangerie, one or two small restaurants, a bar, a florist, a pâtisserie, a pharmacy, a laiterie, perhaps a bookshop or a papeterie, a small chic dress shop and a gallery. Rue du Bac is like this, only more so. It is the perfect street for the other kind of Paris shopping,

the neighbourhood browse, where you are not looking for anything in particular but will see much to tempt you.

In rue du Bac, for example, you will come across a branch of Lenotre, the pâtisserie, and just a few streets away is Christian Constant, who many regard as the best *chocolatier* in Paris. In the pharmacy I am always tempted into buying dried herbs for tisanes, which the *pharmacienne* scoops into Cellophane packets: fragrant *tilleul* and spicy *verveine*, as well as expensive rose petals and mixtures of cornflowers and marigolds: tableware at Diners en

Ville, fresh flowers from Jean Vassal and posh groceries from Hediard, all in rue du Bac, and you have everything for an instant dinner party.

Other favourite streets are the bohemian rue Mouffetard, not far from the Jardin des Plantes, rue Montorgueil, near what was les Halles and still full of good food shops, including *traiteurs*, butchers, a boulangerie, pâtisserie and a small market.

Rue de Grenelle, across the Esplanade des Invalides, winds along to the Eiffel Tower parallel to rue St-Dominique, both good streets for leisurely shopping and crossed by rue Cler, which has a very good market where you will find large round loaves of *pain de campagne*, unpasteurised butter, cheeses of every description, charcuterie, meat, poultry, fruit, flowers, herbs and vegetables of the highest quality, and equally high prices. Cheaper and just as pleasant is the market on Boulevard Edgar Quinet.

Paris is the place for specialist shopping. For the chocolate connoisseur, apart from Christian Constant who also has a shop at 37 rue d'Assas, there is Robert Lipp, of La Maison du Chocolat at 8 boulevard Madeleine, 52 rue François Ier and 225 rue du Faubourg St-Honoré; Lenore, with several branches in the city; Jean Paul Hevin at 3 rue Vavin and 16 avenue de la Motte Picquet; Fouquer at 36 rue Lafitte and 22 rue François Ier; Richard at 58 rue Lafayette and 258 Boulevard Saint Germain and, the oldest chocolate shop in Paris, Debaive et Gallais at 30 rue des Saints-Pères and recently at 33 rue Vivienne.

Paris is the place for specialist shopping. For the chocolate

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Near the Gard du Nord you will find the Marché St Quentin, Amfreville et fils and Bardou. The market offers fresh produce and the two grocery shops, dry goods and dairy produce. Both have an excellent range of mature champagnes at fair prices.

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Mon Dieu! The life of a simple man is awful hard

Sharp-eyed readers will have noticed a certain creeping Frenchness in this newspaper of late; Radio 4 listeners are spread even as far as *The Archers*, and television seems awash with it. Clearly it is far too late to spray against this Francophilia, so I too decided to sit back and enjoy its rolling blossoms with the rest.

Over half-term this family abandoned sheep (and cattle, and pigs) in all across the Channel. For once, I exchanged my heavy boots and even heavier outlook on life for a lightly shod and jauntily nattered visit to the western edges of Brittany, where even *les moutons* oblige diners by grazing the salt marshes and becoming, as the menus put it, pre-salted. (We happened to have a field which has become infested with wild mint and I am wondering if I could achieve an equally natural flavour-

ing effect by putting the lambs to graze on it.)

I took a little light reading on my French excursion. I had unearthed in a second-hand bookshop a volume first published in France in 1904, which apparently took Paris by storm. It is *The Life of a Simple Man*, by Emile Guillaumin, and is the story of Etienne Berrien, otherwise known as Tienon, a countryman M Guillaumin took up with. It is not romantic. On the back cover it says: "His world is one of unremitting toil; he is cheated by landlords and patronised by smart city people. In the fields there is a ceaseless battle against crop failures and the vagaries of the weather." The front cover bears a detail from a Van Gogh sketch of



some poor bent-backed devil hoeing, just as I have been doing in the summer pursuit of "chopin' art mangel". It is the time of year when the mangel-wurzel seeds germinate, and to ensure fully grown mangels as

big as cannon balls they have to be thinned to about a foot apart. It is done with a hoe, backwards and forwards all day long, row after row. It hurts. Smart city people in green wellies look over the hedge and probably patronise me while I do it. This is clearly my sort of book.

Old Tienon looked the part. "A dear old fellow, all bent with age, unable to walk without the help of his hazel stick. He has a thin fringe of white beard, and a wart on the side of his nose... a big cotton



snock with a leather belt, baggy blue trousers, a woollen cap turned down over his ears and sabots of beechwood bound with iron hoops." He has certain endearing habits, like halting his oxen at the

end of every furrow for a pinch of snuff (for him, not them) in winter, and in summer taking a pinch between every swipe of his scythe.

His account of country life is unvarnished, not at all the stuff to

charm passing admens into writing bestsellers. At six years old he tended sheep for long hours in the hot sun, dredging snakes. In adolescence he went courting, a fairly dour affair ("As well you as another, she said"). In youth he watched his parents and grandmother dredging ruin at the landlord's hand ("The lawyers will take our all. They will sell our furniture and our tools at auction. Ah, mon Dieu!"). His family epitaph was: "He was very old, worn out, but he wasn't a burden. He worked right to the end." Which sounds just like farming life anywhere else.

Obviously this book will never be a bestseller. Having reluctantly accepted that our own rural dream is long since buried beneath fields of rape and out-of-town hypermarkets, we prefer our images of the French farming landscape to be incurably romantic. Our French farmer is still the one in the subsidy problems.

I put the book aside and tried to enjoy the holiday. I do not suppose the French farmer is at all much different from the British, except that he is readier to take to the streets and barricades when he thinks his government has failed him. In the long run, I doubt he sees much future on the land, but he has given me a few ideas, has Tienon. Does anybody know where I can buy snuff these days?

Boules gets on the ball

William Langley reports on the new Olympic sport of 'glorified marbles'

Barring the possibility of their team bus being hit by a meteorite on its way to the ground, the French look ringing certainties to carry off the first ever Olympic boules title in Barcelona this summer.

Should they fail, the shame is likely to be more than this nation of devoted boules players can bear. Old hands still recall how, after the disgrace of being knocked out of the world championships by Morocco a decade ago, the national squad was virtually sent into exile. Now the French are not only back on top, but so far ahead of the rest of the world that it might just save everyone's time to post the gold medals to Paris.

Yvon Delver, the national education officer in the Nice district, says: "Boules is a game that develops the virtues of skill, character, precision and patience. At first there was some resistance from parents, who associated it with dodging work and drinking. But I cannot imagine how time playing boules could ever be missed."

Boules has not only become popular but chic. English visitors to the south of France may recall watching it played on hot afternoons under the shade of walnut trees; listening to the reassuring clunk-clunk of metal balls colliding in the dust, and the joshing banters of *Pastis*-swilling peasants in berets who seemed to have wandered in from *Madame Pagnol* stories.

Such enchanting vignettes of village life can still be found, but serious boules — or *pa-*



Vive la change: boules was once a fiercely men-only game in France, but now most of the players registering with the governing body are women

the best-conditioned athletes in the world."

Physical prowess on this scale partly explains the acceptance of boules as an exhibition sport at the Olympics. But not everyone is happy about its inclusion, notably the international Olympic committee's president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, who has reportedly described it as "glorified marbles".

In concept, the game is

endearingly simple. One player throws a small wooden marker ball (the *cochonnet*) and the players of both sides then try to pitch their own boules as close to it as possible. The skill is not simply in landing close to the *cochonnet*, but in blasting other players' boules away from it. The last stages of a game look like a heavy-metal version of space invaders, with boules being zapped in all directions.

From Provence, the game spread through the rest of France and to such improbable outposts as Bulgaria, Thailand, and even Britain, where the British Petanque Association has about 5,000 mem-

bers. (It is a matter of some distress to the French that the forerunner of their national game was probably invented by the English. When the Armada sailed up the Channel, Sir Francis Drake was playing not bowls but a game that involved lobbing cannon balls on to a gravel surface. We have lost the knack; in world rankings we are rated somewhere below Madagascar.)

As the game has grown bigger and richer, however, it has inevitably grown dirtier. Operating around big French cities are *pétanque* "mafias", which run illicit competitions for big money and take illegal bets on the results. Top hustlers like "the Chinaman", whose summer pitch is near the Place de la Nation in Paris, claim to make £800 a day.

But even the sharpest hus-

ters can use a little help. The tricks range from blowing the nose when an opponent is throwing, to the application of some sophisticated dynamic technology. One wheeze of the hustlers is the *boule farcie*: a boule is hollowed out and filled with a small amount of mercury, which stabilises the boule in flight and makes it brake the moment it hits the ground, giving the thrower

much greater precision. Other boules are imperceptibly squared-off, limiting their tendency to roll.

The FFP is reluctant to acknowledge the extent of hustling or the creeping semi-official professionalism of the game. It is, in any case, difficult to see what it could do.

As in other popular sports, top players judge their skill by the money they can make.

Gunning for the hunters

Feather report

Perhaps the greatest difference between the English and the French lies in our attitudes to animals. The largest wildlife charity in Europe is British, the RSPB with 550,000 members. The French prefer their birds dead; they shoot them in colossal numbers, often illegally. And although there are signs of change the killing continues.

Take the annual turtle dove shoot in the Medoc: here 2,000 shooting towers have stood for years, erected beneath the migration flyways from sub-Saharan Africa. And here the birds are slaughtered in their thousands.

They fly, if lucky, to breed all over northern Europe, including this country, where their sleepy tur-turting makes one of the great sounds of the English summer.

The French shoot them in spring, the most destructive time for breeding stock.

One would expect the French being French, that the hunters would at least eat what they kill. But no. A bird at the end of a migration route is mere feather and bone. They are shot for fun of shooting.

This is against both French and European law. Enforcing it is another matter. With getting on for 2 million hunters in France, no politician wants to lose the hunting vote.

However, there is a fledgling opposition to the hunters. When the turtle dove shooting took place a couple of weeks back there was a demonstration by four French conservation organisations, led by the



Ligue Française pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO).

These are brave people: demonstrators have been threatened with death. This year, huge numbers of police in riot gear, and with dogs, came to supervise the shoot.

An international conservation group that included Mike Everett of the RSPB, was told not to approach the shooters.

It would be wonderful to think that this is an early indication of a radical change in French thinking. There is some fine conservation legislation in France: what is needed is greater will to enforce it.

Vive la France verte.

SIMON BARNES

pealed with eggs and paint bombs, kicked and punched."

But these courageous people are getting somewhere. There is growing enthusiasm for conservation in France, especially among the young. Membership of the LPO has doubled to 10,500 in the past five years.

It would be wonderful to think that this is an early indication of a radical change in French thinking. There is some fine conservation legislation in France: what is needed is greater will to enforce it.

Vive la France verte.

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SURVIVAL TIPS

Old trainers and a few good stories

• Think feet. Even pink paving-stones get hard after eight hours. Do not even consider fashion. Very old trainers would do nicely.

• Get there early. Really early. On holiday weekends Euro Disney sometimes opens at eight o'clock. Unless you are sure it is a slack day (say, a wet Thursday in November) forget any idea of strolling up Main Street with no fixed plan of action. Get a map and have a strategy.

• Go straight to the rides which will attract longest queues. With under-fives the Peter Pan Flight, the Dumbo Flyers, the train, Pinocchio, Snow White etc. With older children the Pirates of the Caribbean, Big Thunder Mountain, Phantom Manor and Star Tours. For any age, the maze, the whirling teacups and the carousel. You can always go back and join the queues for another go later.

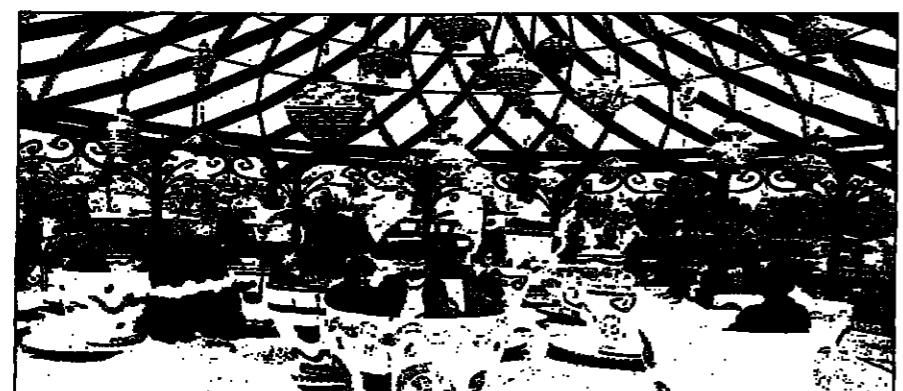
• Devise things to do in queues. We paid the children one franc for each concealed loudspeaker they spotted. We wished we had known more about the Old Caribbean,

Wild West miners etc. A few good hair-raising stories would shorten the queue. The French are rather bad at queuing. It does no harm to spread your family out sideways across the full width of the track to prevent teenagers sidling past you.

• Picnics are banned inside the park (some rucksacks get searched for sandwiches) but there is a left-luggage office at the entrance and a picnic area outside. Inside, the fast-food catering and restaurants are good, but pricey. Calculate at least 40F per head.

• Take a folding umbrella.

• Meeting: If you are a scattering sort of family, a good meeting place is by the Sword Excalibur in Fantasyland beside the pink castle. All four worlds have entrances nearby. There is a corner on the bottom right of Main Street USA with a bare brick wall and a sign saying 'Dr Johnson's Pink Pills for Pale People', next to the Bicycle Shop. The management may not want you all to know this, but we discovered that this is where Mickey, Goofy and so on emerge from intervals.



Ride with a gentle touch: climb on a flying saucer for the mad hatter's tea party



Queue with a sting in the tail: the wait for Big Thunder Mountain starts here

WHERE TO STAY

• Euro Disney entry fee: £25.50 adult, £15 child. Opening times 9am-7pm April to end Oct; 10am-6pm Nov to April; Christmas, Easter, July and August weekends, 9am-midnight.

• Hotels (in descending order of luxury, from £293 to £58 per night for a room sleeping four): Disneyland — the pink manor house New York — Manhattan without muggings. Newport Bay Club — Gatsby style Sequoia Lodge — rustic but ritzy Cheyenne — Wild West. Santa Fe — with volcano

• Camp Davy Crockett — self-catering bungalows for six from £93 per night, or camping-caravanning plots for £27.

• All reservations 010 331 494190 or (UK) 071-753 2900



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A scream a minute: Libby Purves



How Disney has perfected the

It was odd to see a bright, as French boy dressed as a cowboy g helplessly at a punter who had the strict rules, lit up a cigarette, queue for Big Thunder Mountain, could tell that in his normal persona, waiter or train conductor in France, this boy would say "Defense de fumer" and that his o triot would shrug and obediently out. But here, in this limbo Am kingdom, he was hobbled by his new training. Perhaps he or remember whatever Hollywood circumlocution was expected ("I really want you to have a nice day, smoking materials are prohibited, everyone's safety and enjoyment. The effect of all this was to make deeply sympathetic to the young and anxious that one day the two should blend into a genuine

Soothies

Nicholas's version (aged 9)



Fantasyland had architecture but too storybook. Aureland was of the best. It had animatronic rates and a rush and swish thought it was

the queuing too, as the queue something to look at. On The Mountain I almost gave up on the but there were nice things to look at ride itself was good.

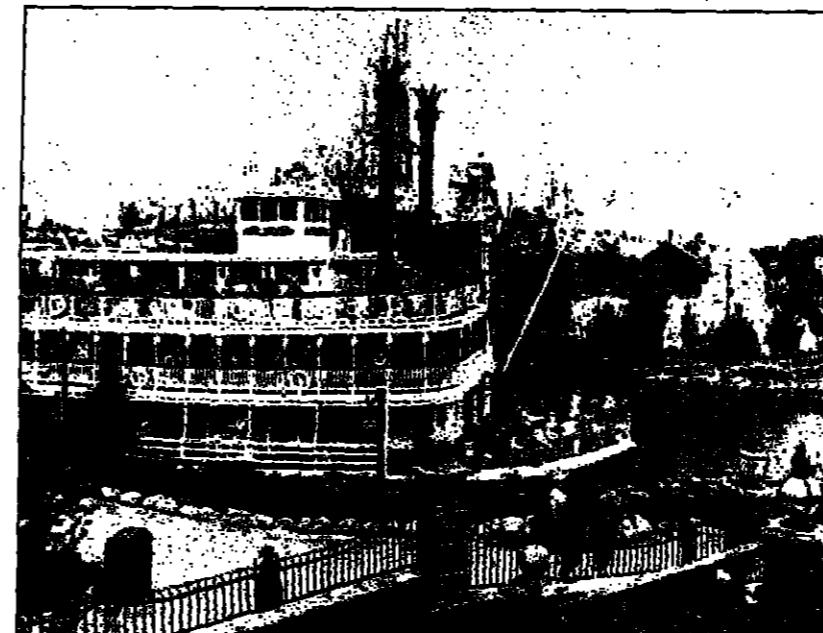
The Haunted House I thought very good. It wasn't tacky like haunted houses. The skeletons quite likable. I thought the clearest things were the see-through dan characters. We also went on the Pan Flight. I think you should go some incredibly rough rides before you could use it to soothe your nerves didn't think much of the Pinocchio.

Even if I stayed for months I did could still be interested. Just walk around looking at the scenery is got think it'd be best to go in the holidays you could have time to get used to hardness of lie again afterwards Euro Disney the hardest thing you queue. Going back to school is it difficult. I'm having trouble with it

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHEN MARKSON



A minute later: Heiney with Nicholas and Rose take the bends on the Big Thunder Mountain railroad, through an impeccably detailed landscape where a robotic goat munches the hillbilly washing



"Screaming": left, the rickety thrills of Big Thunder Mountain. Centre, tourists from Hong Kong pose at the entrance to the park. Right, the "almost intolerably romantic" paddle steamer

...manner. So we said "Bonjour!" a instead of "Slowly!". And when the speechless Goofy, Mickey, Donald and Pluto we tried to convey my wordless solidarity, and shook great grotesque white hands.

...the rides. The falling rain did deter the rapidly flooding days: too late, we realised it was a bank holiday weekend. In the three hours we took in a lot of awful beeps from caverns to islands to the Big Canyon, ate lunch in the Last Chance Cafe in Frontierland (you feel a twit asking for "Trot Hot Beef stew over sweet potato fries"); but aged only two rides.

Learn a great deal, however, about the art of queue landscaping. What pens is that you see a shorish, queable queue disappearing into a miniautre or up a track, and you join

it. You shuffle forwards reasonably fast, admiring the scenery, which is flawless: the rickety old mine on Big Thunder Mountain is astonishingly real down to the detail of the hoofmarks in the concrete under your feet, and the air of picturesquely decay. By the time you get restless, you can no longer see or be seen by outsiders: you are inside the attraction, trapped in a still-moving queue which turns out to be 200 people longer than you thought because it has been artfully routed through a sort of maze, made of castle-crush barriers (all themed, of course, in distressed wood). You grow quiet and resigned. Eventually, you get on the ride, and hardly know it. We kept amused most of the time, despite the rain and the crowds.

And how were the rides? The mine-train was pretty stunning. The labyrinth

was brilliant. The Haunted House was long, intricate and satisfying, with every kind of hologram, trick mirror, skeleton and wraith. Again, we longed for Disney to relax and let some European style into the place: there is a brilliant entrance where the room you stand in becomes a lift, and descends, elongating the innocent paintings on the walls as it does so to reveal snakes and horrors below. But the pictures are bland and chocolate-box: surely in the heart of Europe they could have done pastiche Fragondans or Gainsboroughs, with Hieronymus Bosch or Francis Bacon creatures appearing beneath?

But I would have gone all the way just for the Pirates of the Caribbean. Deep underground through lantern caves, you seem to come into a hot, musty-smelling, oppressive tropical night with an uneasy full moon overhead. You board a barge

which floats, climbs, crashes and splashes through scenes of fantastic piracy acted out by animatronic robots with every nasal hair, every star in place. When you pass a sleeping pig it is not a model pig, but twitches its leg occasionally as real pigs do. When you turn your head to see if the robots stop moving when the barge goes by, not only are they still at it, but one pirate will turn his head and wink, savagely, at you. It could only be designed by a team of dedicated obsessives: it is almost frighteningly perfect. On the second day, when we took our own advice and arrived early, we rode through it twice running and could have stayed underground all morning, marvelling.

There is a trick, used in Main Street USA at the entrance, called "forced perspective". All the buildings are at a slight angle, and some corners are

rounded off. It means that looking inwards to the park, the castle at the end seems 500 yards away. Looking back homeward with sore feet, the distance seems 100 yards. It is, in fact, 295 yards and ten inches. By the end of two days, we knew what had happened to us. Our perspective had been forced. Even Paul could hardly be parted from his Mickey Mouse ears, and Rose ("I hate stupid old Disney cartoons") was queuing for Goofy's autograph. It gets you that way.

Sooth nerves

Rose's version (aged 7)

I quite liked seeing the Mickeys and Goofies and stuff but the rides were better. One of the good things was the Sleeping Beauty's Castle. Down in the dungeons there was a son that can breathe smoke. And there was a carousel which none of the others in my family thought very good but I thought it was brilliant. Frontierland was the most exciting I ever land. There was the Big Thunder Mountain which was very bumpy. You nuzzled right under the in the runaway mine train. I think best way to enjoy the great thunder is when you're hurtling through dark doing a 90-degree turn and screaming, is to just shut your eyes. I scream. The pirates the best way to enjoy it is look around you, not scream. The best way to enjoy the Time Machine is if there isn't a best way to enjoy it. It's fun. If you go, tell your mum and dad and everybody in your family that it will just be if they quarrel and be nasty to

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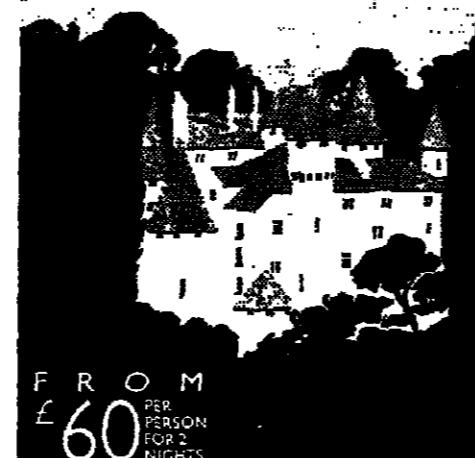
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• Paris Travel Service: A selected Euro Disney Resort tour operator offering complete package holidays by air, rail, coach or car to all six of the resort hotels. All holidays include guaranteed unlimited free entrance to the theme park and a one-day Paris Metro pass. Sample price at the Hotel Santa Fe is £216 per person staying three nights and flying by Disney Air Express from London Gatwick. Reservations through any ABTA travel agent, or by calling Paris Travel Service on 0920 461000.

• Airtours: Dedicated Euro Disney Resort brochure featuring four of the resort's six themed hotels and the Davy Crockett camping ground, as well as off-site accommodation in Paris. Prices start from £199 per adult (£159 per child) including return flight, entry to Euro Disney during stay, four nights shared accommodation for up to six people at the Davy Crockett camping ground. For further information call 061-236 1558. Reservations via ABTA travel agents, or on 0706 260000.

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Monet's garden repainted

Francesca
Greenoak takes a reflective view of Claude Monet's garden at Giverny, restored after 15 years' research

Claude Monet's celebrated garden at Giverny in Normandy, a honeypot even in the painter's lifetime, is one of France's most popular gardens after a 15-year restoration carried out under the direction of the Institut Conservatoire du Musée Claude Monet.

The grid of plots and beds, rose arches and clematis towers of the upper garden, restored to the original plan, are overwhelming with the plants that Monet loved: irises, gladioli, day lilies, clematis, roses and nasturtiums.

An underpass leads beneath the Vernon road, marking the transition from the semi-formal presentation of the upper garden to the serpentine paths of the lower part, which hug the water lily pool, bordered by bamboo, azaleas and other shrubs. The reconstructed Japanese bridge, the subject of one of Monet's most acclaimed paintings, once again draped with wisteria, leads into a shady woodland and river walk.

The head gardener, Gilbert Vahé, has consulted research gathered from reviews, notes and recollections of people who knew the garden, including Jean-Marie Touguat, Monet's great nephew, who still lives close by. Last year, M Vahé managed to obtain a rose called 'La Belle Vichysoise', an energetic rambler which, described just before the artist's death, had grown to a magnificent 7-8 metres (about 22-26ft), all smothered in long bunches of small fragrant pink roses.

Nearly all of the plants known to have been grown by Monet are reassembled in the new garden, but there is a difference in style. The vivid monochrome planting which Monet changed as rapidly as a theatre set, has given place to an abundance owing its effect to good perennials such as artemisias, salvias, hardy geraniums and oriental poppies of every colour. This garden now has as close affinities with modern English gardening as



The garden Monet loved: winding paths of the lower garden hug the water lily pool, bordered by bamboo, azaleas and other shrubs it had previously with its English Edwardian counterpart.

Cotton lavender *Santolina chamaecyparissus*, a plant native to southern France, is rather underused in English gardens. It is a plant I like very much, either bushing out in its natural form or clipped. If it is sheared in mid-to-

late July as it begins to flower, it makes lovely silvery-grey new growth which stays compact and dense. At Giverny it is neatly grown around an area of fruit espaliers, and as part of a sunny tiered border with white arabis in front and tall irises and lilies behind.

Giverny is open to a vast and

eager public, and an early start is needed to give you a bit of breathing space before the tourist buses arrive.

Monet's house is also well worth a visit: its colour schemes and Japanese artefacts relate to the themes of the garden.

For a change of scene after the

bustle of Giverny, I went to the nearby but little known garden at the Château de Ambleville. This quiet, reflective garden is cared for by its owners, Bruno and Stephanie Laubadère. Designed by Mme Laubadère's Italian grandmother, the garden has a large sunken parterre, with a formal pattern of water channels and small fountains, a few loggia, and a delightful small lily garden.

Stone steps ascend to a lime avenue, chess-patterned lawn, and a serpent and rayed sun in topiary. There are beautiful Anduze pots of sweet-smelling pinks around the Renaissance château, and old-fashioned roses such as Pierre Ronsard, with pale greenish buds, opening to richly fragrant, quartered pink flowers.

● Claude Monet museum and garden, Giverny (about 2½ miles east of Vernon on the D51), open daily except Mondays, 10am-6pm. Admission to the garden FF30, house FF20. Ambleville (about 7½ miles north of Vernon on the D86), open until October at weekends, 10.30am-6.30pm. FF25, children free.

BEST GUIDES

A LEAFLET listing 128 gardens in France, with brief descriptions, opening times and phone numbers, is available, in English, from the French Government Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL, at 50p. Rather more expensive at £25 *The Gardens of France*, edited by Penelope Hobhouse and Patrick Taylor (publisher George Philip), evaluates 85 French gardens. And *Le Guide des Jardins de France*, by Michael Racine (Guides Hachette, FF22.10), includes maps, plans, phone numbers and colour photographs of 550 gardens.



Euro-guide: includes Gallic list

WEEKEND TIPS

- Grow cotton lavender (*Santolina*) French style in pots. clipping the foliage into a neat silver dome.
- French geraniums (try *Balconi* mini-cascade in red and purple) look well in hanging baskets: plant densely and feed with a high potash fertiliser.
- For a French-looking border edging, plant thyme, or split old bushes, replanting rooted sections 8in apart.
- For quick topiary, place a wire dome over a pot, plant ivies, and train them over it.

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Dreaming of the south

Nicole Swengley goes shopping around Britain for the look that says Provence

What is it about Provence that has succeeded in seducing generations of the British? Is it the light? The heady fragrance of bread, herbs and freshly cut flowers in the hilltop market towns? The vibrant colours? Or the sensuous landscape, with its vineyards, orchards and olive groves?

In *Aspects of Provence*, James Pope-Hennessy observes: "Provence is a taste, or more correctly a passion, which once contracted cannot be cured. A nostalgia for it creeps over you each spring time; you may feel it in London or in Paris, in the trim, tame fields of Wilshire, or in the white wooden houses of the Norwegian fjords."

Not everyone can adopt this part of France as a second home, but most can recreate the spirit, thanks to Sir Terence Conran, who made Provencal hardware available to British shoppers via Habitat and The Conran Shop, and whose holiday home is a restored farmhouse in Provence.

He describes the Provencal look as "a dream that people have of their holidays — terracotta floors, the generosity of whitewashed walls, total simplicity. To me, it denotes a free and easy style of life. It's fresh and cheerful. But it's not a style that should be slavishly copied. It came about through a mix of influences — sophisticated Indian designs and peasant-ware. So it should be re-adapted for the British climate."

"There are certain similarities between Provencal-style and British low-stairs country house life: the simplicity of furnishings, big pots and pans and tiled floors. The decoration lacks the colour you get in Provence, but colour is easy to add on."

Interior designer Tricia Guild, of Designers Guild, in King's Road, London SW3, says: "It's a style that is not fussy, can be quite contemporary, and is very informal. It's about mixing colours, weaves, and textures. There is a simplicity about the designs that makes it easy to achieve. For example, although we do not have traditional Provencal fabrics, we do have fabrics that work very well in that style."

Les Françaises, in Wimbeldon, southwest London, run by the mother-and-daughter team of Françoise and Celine Franassovici, offers a taste of Provence with brightly coloured china, fabrics and accessories, and is one of the few shops selling machine-washable

able oil cloth in bright yellows and blues (£18 a metre plus VAT), useful for al fresco dining.

Putting together a Provencal look does not mean buying new. Tina Locke-Norman, who runs Ginger, an antiques shop in Mill Lane, north London, says: "You always need a few well-chosen old things with a rustic feel to make it look as though the style has evolved naturally in your home rather than been bought en masse."

Ginger sells a range of 19th-century French items such as enamel household storage jars with French labels — café, sucre, épices — in Gothic lettering, from £25, faux bamboo side tables at about £350, and mirrors with faux bamboo frames from £50 to £150.

Another specialist in Provencal antiques is Judy Greenwood, whose shop in Fulham Road, London SW6, stocks 19th and earlier 20th-century French furniture. She also sells wicker, wall lights, curtains and old quilts from the south of France in strong colours and designs, from £100.

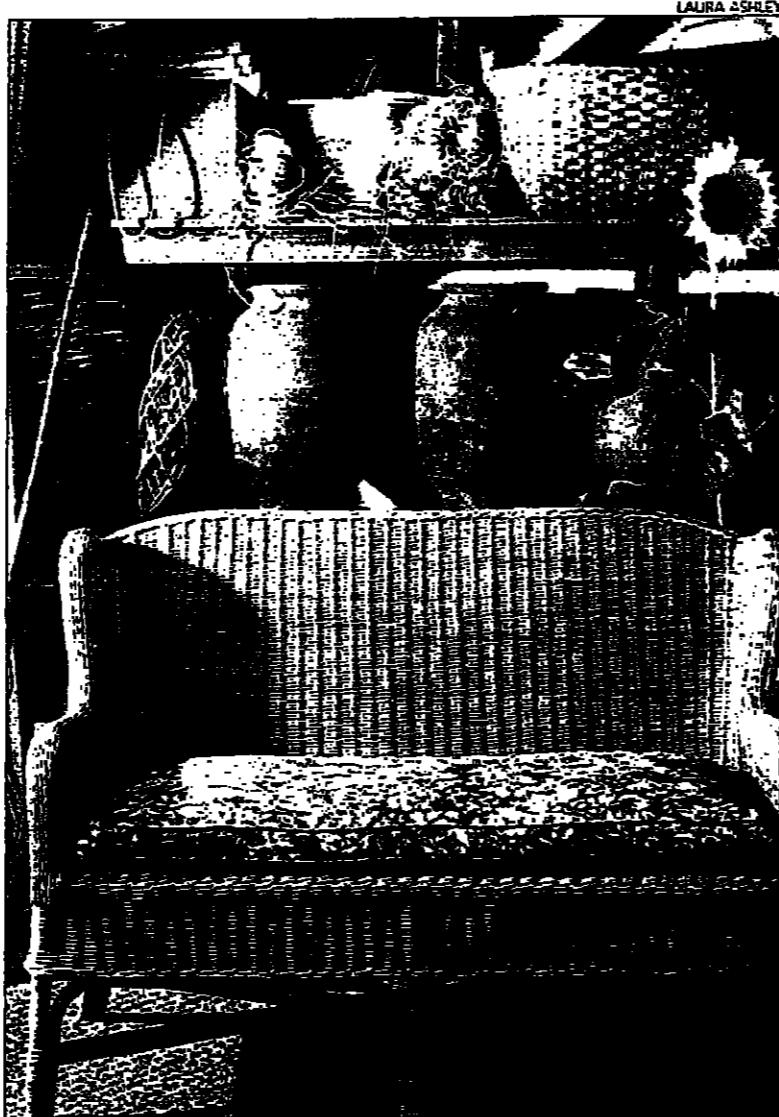
Decorative Living, in New King's Road, London SW6, is another source of old French finds, with wicker baskets from £30, French bird cages, £140, French wall lights and a three-branch chandelier with green leaves and cherries dating from 1900, £240. A set of iron garden chairs from the 1950s costs £500, and a 1930s painted wooden table is £400.

Those on a limited budget can furnish in Provencal style with help from Habitat, Marks & Spencer, Next and Laura Ashley.

Solid pine farmhouse tables cost £275 and pine cottage chairs £85 at Marks & Spencer Home Furnishing stores (mail order 0925 351100). A

FRENCH CONNECTIONS

Bruce Oldfield: "The natural commitment of the French to life encourages even the most stoical Brit to unwind and enjoy the air, food and wine."



Country style: rattan and pots feature in the Laura Ashley French look

pine sideboard with three drawers and cupboards costs £499, and a dresser top with glazed cupboard doors £450. A circular wicker dining table is £175, and matching chairs, £110 each.

Mediterranean-inspired hand decorated earthenware pottery is a new addition to the M&S range. A bright blue and yellow grapes design is complemented by plain yellow pottery with a blue band. Prices range from £5.99 for a dinner plate to £9.99 for a large platter. Another M&S introduction is the Avalon range of embroidered easy-care bed linen (65 per cent polyester, 35 per cent cotton). White double duvet covers cost £65, pillow cases £13.99 each.

Laura Ashley Home branches (mail order 0800 868100) offer a plain white embroidered double duvet cover for £69.95, pillow cases from £9.95. A white lace double bedspread costs £64.95, or £75.95 for a pure cotton Jacquard double bedspread.

Hand-crafted rattan furniture includes a sofa at £200 (cushion pad and ticking cover £65); armchair, £145 (cushion pad and ticking cover £35); and a circular side table, £95.

Branches of Next Interior sell blue and white check Valdieu fabric at £9.95 a metre. Curtains, pelmets and tie-backs are available in the same check.

Next's pine bedroom furniture range includes a two-door wardrobe at £469.99; Cheval mirror, £209.99; double bed frame, £449.99; bedside cabinet, £159.99; blanket box, £169.99.

Habitat adds splashes of Provencal to the home with recycled blue or green glassware from £4 a tumbler; jaunty coloured place mats, £2.25; blue and white check tablecloths, £15.75, and matching napkins, £1; green and yellow earthenware jugs, bowls, and plates from £5.96 for side plate.

Les Françaises also sells embroidered 100 per cent cotton Carina bed linen (double duvet £60, pillow case £12) and, less expensively, white amara 100 per cent cotton bed linen (double duvet £27, pillow case £5). A range of rattan furniture completes the summerly look with prices from £59 for dining chairs.

● Next week: Getting Away visits Provence

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French with an accent on space



The McNair-Wilsons have made a large farmhouse their home in rural France, where the pace is slow and the living is easy. Elizabeth Dickson reports

Sir Patrick and Lady McNair-Wilson (with daughters Anne and Kate, above) were exploring the Thiérache area of France for a barn which they could buy for their five children, when they happened to look in the windows of a *notaire* and see an 1850s farmhouse advertised for sale. The result is their five-bedroom family home, bought in 1988 for £30,000 including the commission, with £34,000 spent on restoration and further funds spent on several hectares of land, outbuildings and creation of a new garden.

This summer most of the family are expected to come and stay, for the place now sleeps up to ten, and Lady McNair-Wilson spends up to a fortnight there each month. As Sir Patrick is busy as an MP, he makes the journey to the farmhouse, about 100 miles northeast of Paris, infrequently, but for his wife it has an increasingly strong pull. Unlike an area such as the Dordogne, few other Britons live there, although the drive takes only three hours from the Channel ports.

Lady McNair-Wilson says: "There's a strong, natural attraction about the place, and so much space that the house in Hampshire feels like a pocket-handkerchief by comparison. The view of total openness falling away to the valley adds to this sensation of space. Somehow, I notice and appreciate the changing seasons more. I love the sight of the pigeons and *étagères*, or fishponds. Life really is at a simpler pace." The house, with its two pastures and land, is within a small agricultural community.

It was through the poplar trees in the valley that German tanks were

first seen by the villagers here, and in both world wars the farmhouse was occupied by the enemy. From the time of the barbarians, this region has always been in the path of invaders. Typical of the area are the many remote churches, which were fortified in the 10th century.

At the McNair-Wilson's home, the pigeons belonging to M Mathias, the Picardian farmer who is paid to mind the property during the owners' absence, have taken over the attractive arched building, and exotic poultry strut about the shingled drive. *Nègres au soie*, Dorking cou cou and Plymouth Rocks are just three of the chicken species which Lady McNair-Wilson is easily tempted to buy — although she resists the costly caged ones on sale along the banks of the Seine. The visiting *touriste* or stone marten is the bird's adversary, and other wildlife include dormice, which initially caused havoc to the house's heating system by their choice of a flue in which to nest.

Until 50 years ago this was an important cider-producing area, and in early winter there is still a tradition of rolling the local cider press through the villages to collect windfall fruit. Calvados, made from cider and bought for £8 a litre at a nearby farm, is used by Lady McNair-Wilson for bottling cherries. *Ratafia de champagne* and *eau-de-vie des prunes* are inexpensive brandies, and from the villages south of Fismes champagne costs just £5 a bottle.

This large, formal farmhouse, La Maison de Jovet, is named after the once wealthy family who built it after pulling down three other houses on the site. The location is equidistant from the small market



Relaxing in the country: "There's a strong natural attraction about the place," Lady McNair-Wilson says; "life is at a simpler pace"

towns of Marle and Vervins. Many of the stallholders have become good friends — with an invitation to Lady McNair-Wilson from one to go fishing for tench, and from another the offer of fresh vegetables grown in the back garden. The best value for eating out is found at Le Huneau, the cottage restaurant in the village of Plomion. Here the five-course menu surprise costs FF150, and when Lady McNair-Wilson ordered a cake in advance for teenager Kate, the youngest of the children, it was brought to the table with her name and birthday wishes inscribed on the icing.

Barter is still used as a way of getting things done; for instance, the rate for the farmer who uses the McNair-Wilson's corner pasture, as well as cutting and keeping the hay, is 3kg of butter and a smoked ham a year. The only drawback is that as a result rather a lot of ham tends to lurk in the freezer in the farmhouse cellar, since this is not a food particularly liked by the McNair-Wilson family.

Herbs, wine and garlic are among the items brought back to London, and taken abroad on the outward trip have been Coles paints, Zoffany wallpaper (copies of 18th-century French designs), antique fabrics from Wales and old Afghan rugs. Altogether, the sparsely furnished look of the interior decoration, with the accent on simplicity and clear colours, is very much in the French country style. To put this look together,

Lady McNair-Wilson found some good ideas in the book *Mobilier Picard et Artesien*, and although she could not persuade anyone to make loose covers, she found upholstery work done in France cheaper than in the UK.

English daffodil bulbs were also brought over, and now a garden with plants such as hydrangeas and cotoneasters has been made by Michel Hagué, who runs a garden centre at Hirson. The cost of bringing the plants, a lorry full of earth and two workers, and of completing the project according to a landscape plan by Lady McNair-Wilson, was just £500. New apple trees have been added to the ancient orchard. Finally, the outbuildings have been cleared of

redundant farm equipment (plus other resaleable finds, including a 1940s car and a rotting chaise-longue), and the house has now been made good with a multitude of structural repairs. Furniture was found at *brocantes* (antiques shops), fabrics such as classic cotton ginghams and vintage *toiles de jouy* were all put to use, and kitchen utensils were bought at a French branch of Habitat, mixed with objects such as blue Valencia glass from the Lakeland Plastics catalogue in England.

Local recipes have been collected, cakes and expensive chocolate are on offer from merchants who call at the house, and Gypsies still put in an appearance — with wicker baskets as their wares.



FRITZ VON DER SCHULENBERG
Interiors: simple but stylish



Chickenfeed: Kate on duty



Fresh: gifts from neighbours

The house is run without cleaning help and Lady McNair-Wilson prefers it this way, although, she says, "it means the spiders work overtime". A gardener has got as far as shaking hands on an arrangement about terms of employment — but is yet to show up for work. Apart from the fact that there is plenty for him to do this summer, Lady McNair-Wilson wants to hear more about another regional specialty from him — not that she intends to actually cook this dish. It is his sister's way with hedgehog: the prickles come away with the clay in which the animal is cooked, leaving, it is said, a dark and tender meat.

Property plus, page 17

Architect of a cottage success story

Neil Sansum makes renovating a house in a French village seem so easy.

Now he is sharing his knowledge

It took just one day driving around with a French estate agent for 26-year-old Neil Sansum, an architect from Essex, and his friend, Tony Jones, to find exactly what they wanted: a pair of cottages in a village 50 miles inland from Boulogne.

The property also boasted a brick storage barn and one-acre meadow going for a combined price — including set fees for the estate agent and notary who did the conveyancing — of £32,000.

Property-buying is rife with cautionary tales. But this is a cheerful story of how, two-and-a-half years later, Mr Sansum has re-roofed and reconstructed his cottage, painted it, put in a new kitchen and bathroom, made space for a 30ft attic bedroom-studio, replaced rotten beams, rebuilt timber window frames and doors to the original style, and custom-made kitchen units in ash — all for a total cost of £12,000.

That includes the cost of a number of visits to France, allowing £200 for each weekend, and the cost of living there for a few months last summer with his girlfriend to finish structural work and attend to the cosmetics.

Getting to his Gallic bolt-hole takes no more than five hours door to door by car and sea from London. Once there, the air is fresh, the villagers friendly, excellent wine is £2 a bottle, and Louis, who lives across the road, comes over twice a week, bearing gifts of freshly picked vegetables from his garden in return for keeping his sheep in the meadow.

Mr Sansum is now the owner of a sound, modernised, accessible house in France with half shares in a meadow and barn — all for under £50,000. Even allowing for his warning that in France the cost of improvements is not necessarily reflected in the value of property, that has to be a good investment. There seem to be no snags other than that the weather in the Pas de Calais is no better than ours. Could anyone do it?

Not just like that. One reason it

went smoothly for Mr Sansum is that, being an architect himself, he avoided architect's and surveyor's fees and, more important, he knew enough about construction to avoid the difficulties less experienced do-it-yourself renovators get into.

This month he is running a training course, Le Weekend, to pass on some of the know-how he gained when renovating his own cottage, talking about how to cost the work, what permits are needed, how to find and pay local labour, snags and advantages, and generally how to get the job done without going broke or mad, or annoying the French.

This is one of several courses for self-builders organised by Constructive Individuals. The others deal mainly with projects in Britain, from training amateurs in how to fix the electrics, do the plumbing and tile a roof, to putting up the whole house.

"It is just a matter of demystifying the subject," Mr Sansum says. "It is not really difficult." Even finding the ideal pair of cottages in a quiet village, within an hour's drive from Boulogne, was painless. The estate agent drove the two men to a ruined farmhouse (£15,000), a 14-bedroomed château (£75,000) that needed another £250,000 for repairs, a few pretty wrecks — and then to the cottages. They were single-storey, built of brick about 150 years ago for farmworkers. The timbers looked older than the house, probably salvaged from another place, and the inside partitions were made of mud and cow dung. The last occupants had knocked the two into one and lived there for 50 years. It had been empty for three years.

"Originally, it was one large cottage and one small one," Mr Sansum says. "We divided it to make it two of equal size, and sorted it out legally. Deciding who should have which side was no problem: Tony preferred the one on the right and I had been going to ask for the one on the left. Like the other houses in the village, it faces the road behind a grass verge, and in summer the area is full of



Framed: rebuilding timber around windows; above, the cottage

colour, with flowering geraniums. "Because I did the survey there were no nasty surprises," Mr Sansum says. "The roof needed re-tiling. The quarry-tiled floor was sound, the tiles laid straight on sand, but the beams in the partition wall went straight into the earth and part of them had rotted. Window frames and the door needed replacing, and I had to put in a bathroom and a kitchen."

Living in a village, Mr Sansum found the best way to find a roofer was to ask the neighbours. This led him to a local man who had a reputation to keep up and who could show the work he had done. "He did not want a deposit, and wouldn't let me pay him until I was completely satisfied," Mr Sansum says. The roofs of both cottages, together with three dormer windows in each, cost £6,000, and

constituted the biggest expense. Thick under-tile insulation was added, for £1,400.

Mr Sansum bought the wood from the village timber yard and put up a partition under the roof, where he has space for a 30ft studio bedroom. The carpenter wanted £600, so he did it himself in two days for £100, the cost of the wood.

Downstairs, he used the old beams to make a screen, dividing the 15ft sitting room from the kitchen and dining-room. He had a unit of ash made in London for the Belfast sink, and lined the big fireplace recess in the kitchen with white and burgundy tiles.

He paid another friend, a plasterer, to spend a week rendering the inside walls, which held the bricks together and made the rooms look rustic. He and his girlfriend painted the walls cream, cleaned up the quarry-tile floor, lit the new wood stove, hung red velvet curtains, and started to look like home.

The most important factors are that it is affordable and accessible. Costing the operation, the roof was £3,000, insulation £1,400, and Mr Sansum allows £7,000 for general building costs over three years, which he says is generous and includes at least seven weekend trips a year plus a longer stay of a few months. That also takes in the cost of petrol, the ferry and meals.

Day-to-day running costs include the annual habitation tax, based on the dwelling area, like local rates. "I pay £90 for about 110 square metres. It will probably increase because I have converted the attic space," he says.

"Water rates on a meter are £10 half-yearly and electricity costs are comparable to ours in the UK. We heat water as we go with a little boiler under the kitchen sink."

Mr Sansum says he was apprehensive at first that the local villagers would dislike a foreigner buying property there. He need not have worried. "Everyone is very friendly because we have made an effort to do something to the house," he says.

YVONNE THOMAS

Le Weekend, project management for renovation in France, organised by Constructive Individuals, is on Saturday June 27, 9am-5pm, and June 28, 9am-4.30pm, in Hambleton, Selby, North Yorkshire. Cost is £250 a person plus VAT, £400 for couples. Meals with a French flavour are included. B&B accommodation from £12.50 a night. For a list of other building courses and bookings, write to: Constructive Individuals, 1 The Cottages, Chapel Street, Hambleton, Selby, North Yorkshire YO8 9QE (0757 228562).



Heap of the week: Landal

Kiss of life needed for sleeping beauty

LANDAL is a sleeping beauty in the Brittany cornfields. Standing in the middle of a large farming estate approached by a rough track, it is a strange enigma. A house with a sound roof, windows and shutters, but no sign of life whatsoever.

The first recorded owners were the family of Montsorel in 1137. From then it passed by marriage to the family of Aubigne, then in 1375 to the Montaubans. Olivier de Montauban was a Marshal of Brittany and Admiral of France.

In 1600 it passed, again by marriage, to the Rochechouart-Mortairauts, celebrated in the letters of Madame de Montespan. Only in 1697 was it first sold to Joseph de France, a royal prince, being sold at the revolution as national property.

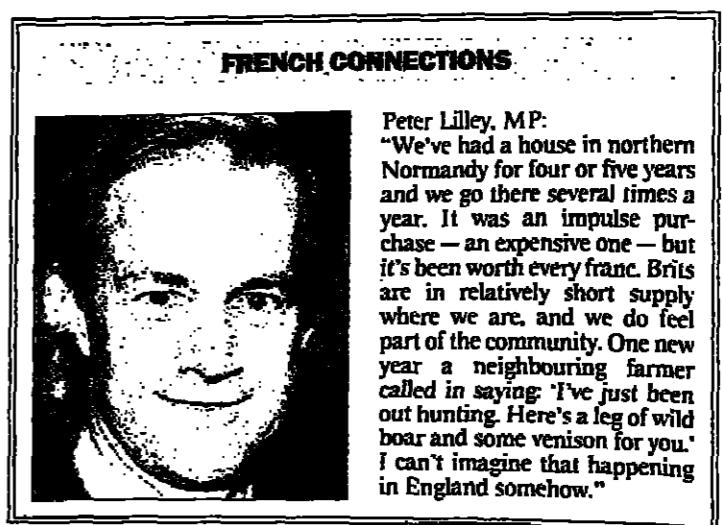
Its architectural history has been more chequered. Taken first by the English in the 1340s, it was recaptured by the French in 1354.

During the civil wars of the 16th century the larger part of the house was burnt. It suffered again unusually at the hands of the English in 1758, following a landing at Cancale aimed at devastating the French fleet at St Malo.

In the 18th century the château was described as "fortified with five strong towers and half enclosed in large moats. On the other side is a large lake which shuts off the château in such a way that it is impossible to approach it without a boat."

Today three of the medieval towers survive, as well as a wing of "offices", built in 1703 by Joseph de France. The large keep is a 19th-century reconstruction gateway.

MARCUS BINNEY



Peter Lilley, MP: "We've had a house in northern Normandy for four or five years and we go there several times a year. It was an impulse purchase — an expensive one — but it's been worth every franc. Brits are in relatively short supply where we are, and we do feel part of the community. One new year a neighbouring farmer called in saying 'I've just been out hunting. Here's a leg of wild boar and some venison for you.' I can't imagine that happening in England somehow."

Buying and selling in France? Rachel Kelly recommends some reading matter

Ask the well-travelled inhabitant of any nation: in which country on Earth would you rather live? His answer, according to Thomas Jefferson in 1821, would be: "Certainly, in my own, where are all my friends, my relations, and the earliest and sweetest affections and recollections of my life." But ask which would be the well-travelled inhabitant's second choice and the answer, says Jefferson, would be France.

Living in France is already the choice of some 45,000 registered British residents, and about another 100,000 who have second homes in the country. Others need little persuading, and to recite the joys of French life is superfluous when numerous writers from Haze to Hemingway have already split so much elegant ink on the subject.

Rather more useful is the approach of Philip Holland, an English lawyer who has 12 years' experience of buying and selling houses in France. With his half-French wife, he has now written *Living in France: The essential guide for property purchasers and residents*.

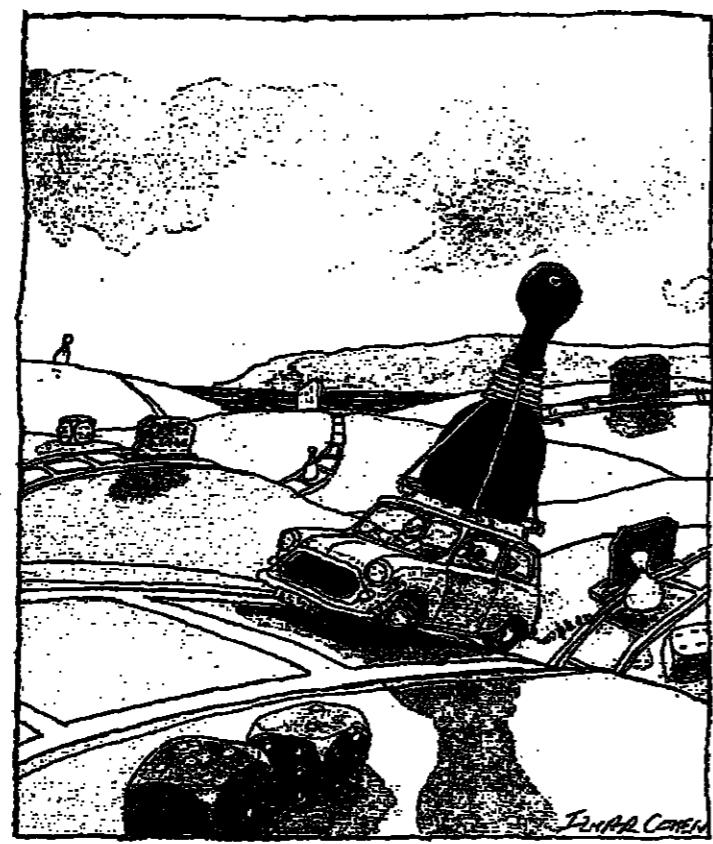
The book examines every aspect of French life. Its 256 pages plumb a depth of detail impossible in the "ten golden rules" summaries beloved of Sunday supplements. While providing chapters on buying and selling homes and building and restoring houses, with step-by-step dos and don'ts, it also addresses the bigger question: what exactly do the British want out of a second home in France?

"Many people will be disappointed if they fail to do a great deal of heart-searching and get professional advice," Mr Holland says.

The wish to recreate glorious summer holidays awash with wine is often the spur. "But a place which has proved ideal for Easter and summer holidays may become intolerable in the autumn and winter, when all the happy holiday-makers have left and rain and wind are the daily fare," he says. "The advice is always visit your future home in winter and out of season before purchasing."

Mr Holland warns that nearly the entire coast from Marseilles to the Italian border — together with the strip of land behind the coast — is so overrun with tourists at the height of the summer that it can become a nuisance for the second home-owner. The same can be true of the resorts along the western coast. Is it sensible to buy a home you plan to use only in summer? "Some people think that it is only after the holidays are over that these places become more pleasant, and

Going by the book



are therefore prepared to forgo the presence of sunshine," he adds.

The local attitude to holiday-makers and residents is rather different. "The French can be singularly unhelpful to people who don't learn their language. It's acceptable for holiday-makers not to speak French, but not for

residents. They can just meet you with a blank stare if they don't want to understand you."

While it is safer to look for properties in areas traditional for the British, it is a pity to overlook those parts of the country which the British have so far avoided. "A word of warning, though," Mr

Edwina Currie, MP: "In 1990 I bought a solid old limestone farmhouse with two acres down in the Loire. It's the empty roads and the space that most appeal to me. France is about two-and-a-half times the size of the UK with roughly the same population, which is fairly evenly scattered throughout. We stick to the departmental roads, which are wonderful. We came off the boat one night and I counted 50 miles before we spotted another car."

• *Living in France: The essential guide for property purchasers and residents*, published by Robert Hale, £14.95.

Holland says. "Bear in mind that there are good climatic and communications reasons why an area has been overlooked."

A region's charms enjoyed on holiday could soon become its liabilities for those who buy a second home there. "Do not plump for a dear little house in the middle of nowhere — which may be fine for a holiday — if you are a person who is used to popping out to shops at the last minute, and likes the luxury of plenty of restaurants, cinemas and other entertainments on your doorstep," Mr Holland says.

No one part of France can offer everything. While the south provides sunshine, prices are on average three times that found in the north, the food is worse, and insurance is more expensive because of burglars. "It is fair to add that the further south one goes the less easy it is to find property suitable for restoration," he says. But Mr Holland adds, the already considerable problems of restoring a house in your own country are magnified if you are unfamiliar with the language. Ignorant of local building regulations and, however swift the journey from England, cannot spend every weekend, let alone every day, personally wielding the whip. "The purchase of tumbledown houses *à renover* should not be undertaken without the greatest circumspection and competent advice."

Some tips should be engraved in every second home-buyer's heart: 1. Bordeaux airport is invariably lost in fog.

2. Although the French telephone system is excellent, directory enquiries are unhelpful (bring a telephone code-book from England.) 3. It pays to acquire a knowledge of Minitel, a mini-databank which answers most questions, if you can understand how to work the system.

4. There are more chemists in France than pubs in England, with a cornucopia of products on offer. 5. English videos won't work on French televisions in colour unless the set is dual standard.

6. Keeping up anything resembling an English garden is near impossible for those who are only in the country for three months of the year. Lawns need more love than most second-home owners can provide.

Such advice might seem daunting. But the book is a useful and above all factual antidote to much of the gush that is written by Francophiles about the country Sir Philip Sidney described as our "sweet enemy".

• *Living in France: The essential guide for property purchasers and residents*, published by Robert Hale, £14.95.

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FRENCH PROPERTY

ACCOMPLISHED French property agent and self-styled "Frenchophile" Robert Hale has just published his second book.

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ALPINE PRO

Browsing through the brocante

France is a dream for informed bargain-hunters, Ray Clancy writes

Antiques markets, fairs and junk shops proliferate everywhere in France, and despite the traditional Gallic determination to secure a good price, they are still a source of bargains for the British collector.

Browsing through flea markets, junk shops and stalls at antiques fairs can be fun for the amateur and exciting for the collector with a few pounds to spend. Just a short hop across the Channel in towns such as Calais, Dieppe, and Boulogne, a treasure trove of collectables is waiting. In Limoges the old streets and squares bustle with traders. In Bordeaux you can pick up antique wine-making equipment. In Avignon, the former city of popes, there is much hidden treasure.

Collectors of particular items can plan their holidays in an area specialising in their favourite pieces, from barnacle-encrusted second world war helmets in Normandy to the delicate porcelain of Limoges and the antique garden furniture which you can still find in Provence.

Furniture is one of the best buys, although it can be difficult to transport home. Small items are worth considering. A friend recently bought a 10in wide marble-topped oak table in Normandy for £30. A similar piece would have fetched £100 in London. My local antiques dealer in Richmond, Surrey, is forever urging me to bring back marble-topped furniture, especially wash stands.

Normandy is my favourite area for antique hunting because it has such a wide range of collectables, including war memorabilia, silverware and pottery. Every small town has its *brocante*, often no more than a rickety, dust-strewn old barn. After the *brocante*, the most interesting haunts for collectors are the *depot ventes* (sale rooms), where everything from second-hand cookers and boots to dining-room furniture and pottery is sold on a commission basis. The seller places items with the warehouse and the longer they are there the lower the price falls. Frequent visits are needed as the turnover can be quick. Antique stoves are a good buy in these depots.

Last month I bought a lot of six chairs for FF700 (about £70) in a



Treasure trove: browsing through flea markets, junk shops and antiques fairs can be fun for amateurs and exciting for collectors

depot in Avranches. Four were plain oak chairs, circa 1950, but two had Norman-style carved backs and legs. I have not had time to examine them fully, and compare them with original 19th-century chairs. One could be a copy, but the more ornate one just might be original, and therefore worth more than £200. Often part of the fun is finding out afterwards.

Normandy is a rich region for collectors of war memorabilia. Guns, helmets, medals and ammunition are still being dug up on the famous landing beaches. Avranches is crammed with war paraphernalia, including Nazi, American, British and French uniforms. The steel helmets, some with bullet holes, are rust-free. Even field bandages, still in their original wrappings, leather boots and canvas haversacks can be found.

The real bargains, however, are to be found away from the Channel ports. Provincial towns are still ripe

for bargain-hunters. One of the liveliest is the Boulevard des Lices in Arles in the south of France. Antique crystal is crammed next to crates of squawking chickens, and porcelain is muddled up with buttons and threads. The flea market in Arles-Provence is spectacular, and well known for its books and prints. The town also has an antiques fair in November. Nearby, Avignon has a bustling junk market on Saturdays on the

banks of the River Rhône, a flea market on Sundays, and various fairs throughout the year.

Homework is recommended for a successful antique-hunting holiday, and rather than detracting from the excitement of the chase, it can lead to fulfilling finds. Before leaving it is a good idea to learn about your favourite items, and know how to recognise fakes.

A basic grasp of French is necessary. Buyers must know their

Sir Terence Conran:
"The markets are what I enjoy most about France. We just follow them around from St Rémy to Arles when we're staying at our house down there. It's partly the atmosphere that appeals, but also the variety of choice, the freshness and the diversity created by all the small traders. It's just so exuberant."

How to make dinner a true work of art

Painters have taken inspiration from the Continent for the latest in tableware

French painters from Picasso and Cocteau to contemporary artists like Manuel Canovas have long been tempted by three-dimensional media when a canvas starts to pall. Now the artistic desire to decorate tableware is bringing bone china out of display cabinets and onto smart dining tables.

Dinner party conversation could be enhanced by the Limoges dinner service, re-created by the French company Robert Hacland & C. Parion from fragments found in Claude Monet's studio by the curator of the artist's house in Giverny. It is now available from Lalique; dinner plates cost £74 each, side plates £39, a coffee cup with saucer £75. The china carries the Monet Museum stamp.

Also available from Lalique are two designs by the French artist Manuel Canovas, whose flamboyant florals have translated well to fabrics and bone china. Pivoines de Chine comprises lush Asian peacock mixed with the blue and white style of Chinese porcelain (dinner plates £56 each), while a further botanical design, in fresh looking pastels, is created in L'Herbier (dinner plates £48 each).

Artistic new designs from the French company Gien (18 rue de l'Arcade, Paris 75008 (010 331 4924/0777) include Camargue, an exuberant yellow and blue dinner

service by Elisabeth Garouste and Matia Bonetti, who made their name in the 1980s with daring furniture designs and the decoration of the Paris salon of Christian Lacroix. The plates have a common theme of stylised carnations. Prices start from £55 for a box of six side plates (£87 for six dinner plates). Stockists include Harrods and Heal's.

Garouste & Bonetti have also designed Gien's contribution to Expo '92 in Seville, drawing on Baroque and contemporary sources and using bright colours reminiscent of the Spanish fiesta. The three dishes in the Sevilla range are decorated with stylised carnations, each flower individually moulded, polished, stuck on to the plate and painted entirely by hand before the final glazing and firing. Sevilla is on view exclusively at Expo '92

each painted with an individual game bird, and dinner or dessert plates decorated with Fabergé-style eggs, cost from £102 each.

Even London-based artists, such as Suzanne Katkhuda, are following the French lead. When invited by the Royal Academy to translate the Fauvist paintings of André Derain on to tableware, she found the painter's work "inspirational. The colours are stunning and the paintings very fluid and simple."

To tie in with last year's Royal Academy exhibition she produced a plate, bowl, jug and mug, and has followed this up with further Fauvist designs available to commission. Anyone interested in seeing her work should visit the restaurant Pied de Terre, at 34 Charlotte Street, London W1 (071-631 0417), where her Derain-inspired cover plates are complemented by a small selling exhibition of her ceramics at the bar. Larger salad bowls cost £90; platters £80; dinner plates £30 each; large jugs £65.

NICOLE SWENGELEY

• Lalique, 162 New Bond Street, London, W1 (071-499 8228); Thomas Goode, 19 South Audley Street, London, W1 (071-499 2823); Suzanne Katkhuda (0604 880800).

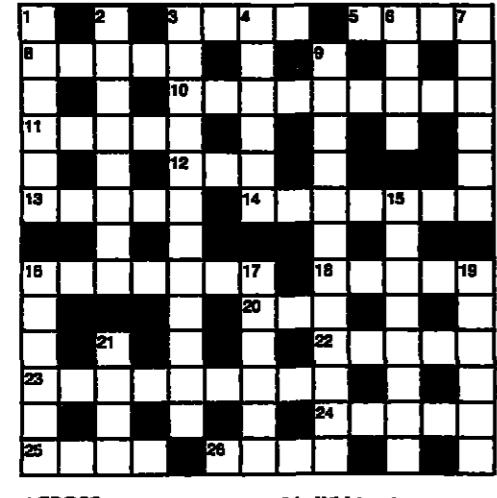
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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This year has been officially designated "Akhiekhine Year", in celebration of the great world champion who was born 100 years ago. This week we shall continue to feature positions from his games. This position is a variation from the game Akhiekhine - Flor, Bed 1931. Material is level and the position looks balanced, but Akhiekhine, white to play, forced resignation with his next move. Can you see how?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thurs-

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC TENDER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE B.N.C.E. WITH OFFICES AT 170 LADY ANNE'S LANE, LONDON SW1 2SH, IS ASKING TENDERS FOR THE PURCHASE OF 1000 TONS OF COAL.

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BBC1

6.35 Open University: Acropolis Now 7.00 Introduction to Pure Maths — Cosets (4994506)
 7.25 News and weather (3968761)
 7.30 *Horatio Spencer*: Fun with puppets (r) (8506235) 7.50 *Babar*: Adventures with the regal elephant (8500051) 8.15 *The Jerssons*: Space-age cartoon (r) (8327495) 8.35 *Round the Twist*: Australian fantasy drama (r) (Ceefax) (3197983)
 9.00 *Parallel 9* presented by Roddy Maude-Roxby, Helen Atkins, Jenny Bolt, Dominic Michael and Kevin Williams. The band Incognito performs its latest single (s) (17835902) 10.47 *Weather* (8014070)
 10.50 *Grandstand*, introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 10.55, 1.40, 2.35, 3.05 and 3.35 *Cricket*: First Test — England v Pakistan. Live coverage of the third day's play from Edgbaston; 1.00 News: 1.05, 1.40 and 2.35 *Tennis*: French Open. The women's final from Paris; 2.25, 2.55 and 3.25 *Racing* from Haydock Park (2.30) *Enoncolt Handicap Stakes*; (3.00) *John of Gaunt Stakes*; (3.30) *Ladbrokes Racing Handicap Stakes* (70624457)
 5.10 News and weather (6168419) 5.20 Regional news and weather (1918070)
 5.25 *Jim's Fix It*: Jimmy Savile fixes it for two children to help their grandfather conquer his fear of flying; and for a chemistry student to present *Tomorrow's World* (Ceefax) (s) (4901544)
 6.00 *The Brittas Empire*: Chris Barrie stars as the hapless manager of a leisure centre (r) (341)
 6.30 *That's Showbusiness*: Leslie Crowther, Malaudra Burrows, Steve Punt and Barbara Windsor join Mike Smith in the entertainment quiz (Ceefax) (s) (693)



One-upmanship in suburbia: Patricia Routledge (7.00pm)

7.00 *Keeping Up Appearances*: Patricia Routledge as the suburban wife, with Clive Swift as her suffering husband, in Roy Clarke's one-episode comedy (r) (Ceefax) (s) (2709)
 7.30 *Grandma's Dearly Beloved* ... Ray Brooks and Sharon Duce join forces in this appealing drama about a couple who decide to become foster parents. They are joined this week by Lily Collins, daughter of rock star Phil (Ceefax) (s) (520877)
 8.20 *Casuality*: Living in Hope. Gritty medical drama series starring Derek Thompson (r) (Ceefax) (d) (r) (560419)
 9.10 News and sport with Mervyn Lewis (Ceefax) *Weather* (929877)
 9.30 *That's Life!*: Esther Rantzen is joined by Lady Moon, who asks pass-byers whether they agree with her style of revenge. (Ceefax) (s) (172525)
 10.10 *Fletch Lives!* (1989). Weak sequel to the hit comedy *Fletch*. Chev Chiesa repeats his role as the obnoxious reporter and master of disguise, who finds himself embroiled in a murder mystery when he inherits a plantation in Louisiana. With Julianne Phillips and Hal Holbrook. Directed by Michael Ritchie (s) (9980525)
 11.40 *Film: Impasse* (1969). Routine action adventure starring Burt Reynolds as a businessman determined to retrieve a cache of gold, buried in the Philippines during the second world war. With Anne Francis, Lyle Bettger and Rodolfo Acosta. Directed by Richard Benedict (285439) 1.20am *Weather* (3325262)

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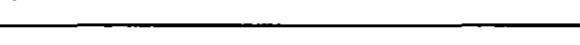
BBC2

6.40 *Open University: Money Grows on Trees?* 7.05 *Maths: Volumes of Revolution* 7.30 *Geology of the Alps* 7.55 *Images: Holography at Work* 8.20 *Ecology: Arts and Acadia* 8.45 *IT in Bank Training* 9.10 *Baby Talk* 10.00 *Hamlet Workshop* 10.25 *Living Choices: New Dimensions* 10.50 *The Write to Choose* 11.15 *Empires of the Mind* 11.40 *Of Gann and Genes* 12.05 *The Way to Holmes* (Home Office Large Major Enquiry System) 12.30 *Interpersonal Communication* 12.55 *Trading on Uncertainty* 1.20 *A Portable Computer* 1.45 *Mental Handicap: Finding a Voice* 2.10 *Visioning in Action* 2.35 *The Rise of Scientific Europe* (76728)
 3.05 *Film: The Disobedient Orderly* (1964). Joyous slapstick comedy starring Jerry Lewis as an accident-prone hospital aide. With Glenda Farrell and Everett Sloane. Directed by Frank Tashlin (964167)
 4.30 *Cricket*: First Test — England v Pakistan. Continued live coverage of the third day's play from Edgbaston (s) (91490)
 6.30 *The Human Element: The Fatal Shift*
 • CHOICE: The unassuming but unfailingly watchable series of science documentaries reconstructs a shipwreck tragedy from 1969 when four workers died in a flash fire. It broke out on the Lady Delfa, an oil rig supply ship under repair on the Tyne, after the men had stayed on for a late shift because the work was behind schedule. The film is a scientific detective story, conducted by the combustion expert called in to investigate the fire. Professor Ian Fells of nearly Newcastle University. Despite not being allowed on the ship, Fells was able to piece together the sequence of events and came up with an explanation. His starting point was a cigarette lit by one of the men, which burst suddenly into flames and caught the coat of a colleague. The culprit turned out to be oxygen (s) (235)
 7.00 *Later Again*: Salman Rushdie interviews the American-African writer Toni Morrison (205419)
 7.50 *News and sport* with Moira Stuart. *Weather* (110273)
 8.05 *Dance House*: The last film in the *Commissions and Collaborations* season. Choreographer Alieeta Collins and designer Tom Cairns take a boating theme and Steve Mardian provides the music (s) (727885)
 8.10 *One World: Greenbucks*: Chief executives of some of the world's most powerful corporations have become inexperienced recruits in the battle to save the earth. In Australia, new technology could mean an end to dumping sewage into the sea while Germany is manufacturing 100 per cent re-usable cans. (Ceefax) (577709)
 9.00 *News and Sport*: *News* (10.30) 10.00 *Weather* (110273) 10.25 *News* (10.30) 10.45 *News* (10.30) 10.55 *Weather* (110273)
 9.30 *Rhythms of the World: Bombay and Jazz*: Many jazz musicians have been inspired by the traditions of improvisation in Indian music. In a New Year concert in Bombay, Don Cherry, Trilok Gurtu and L. Shankar perform their innovative musical styles (s) (62273)



Documenting a childhood spent in care: Vonnie (10.30pm)

10.30 *Teenage Diaries: Justice Sucks*: After the award-winning *Video Diaries* series, young people are given the opportunity to document their lives. In tonight's programme, 16-year-old Vonnie recalls the pain of separation from her brother as she was transferred to a succession of children's homes (229167)
 11.20 *Cricket*: First Test — England v Pakistan. Highlights of today's play from Edgbaston (s) (141525)
 11.50 *Film: The Gambler* (1974). Solid update of the Dostoevsky story with James Caan on a losing streak in life as well as on the gaming tables. With Lauren Hutton and Paul Sorvino. Directed by Karel Reisz (666341). Ends at 1.45am



ITV

6.00 *TV-am* (106231)
 9.25 *Gimme 5*: Entertainment for young people, with cartoons and music from the *Passionados* and Nancy Davis (72410167)
 11.30 *Zorro: Family Business*: Swashbuckling adventures (3419)
 12.00 *The Chart Show*: This week's *Video Vault* features U2 performing 'I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For' (s) (54590)
 1.00 *ITN News and weather* (6229186) 1.05 *LWT News and weather* (62291457)
 1.10 *International Rugby* — New Zealand v Ireland. Highlights of the second Test from Wellington. Bob Symonds and Nigel Carr provide the commentary (s) (101322)
 1.55 *The World's Greatest Stunts* — Live! Daredevil feats (68305693)
 2.25 *Saint and Grenville*: Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves represent the European Football championship, and introduce live coverage at 3.15 of this afternoon's schoolboy international between England and Italy from Wembley Stadium (59408077)
 5.00 *ITN News and weather* (1973902) 5.05 *LWT News* (6189902)
 5.15 *Beverly Hills*, 90210: Wild Fire. Angst-ridden teenage drama series set in an exclusive Los Angeles high school. A new girl (Christine Elise) enrols at West Beverly High. (Oracle) (s) (5385273)
 6.10 *Bob's Your Uncle*: Bob Monkhouse invites three newlyweds to test their general knowledge (s) (375547)
 6.55 *Father Dowling Investigations: The Movie Mystery*: Tom Bosley as the clerical sleuth has another murder on his hands. With Tracy Nelson as Sister Steve. (Oracle) (s) (97254)
 7.50 *The Ruth Rendell Mystery: Murder Being Once Done*: Polished detective series starring George Baker as the gruff and stoic Wexford. While convalescing with the Burdens in London, Wexford is unable to resist the urge to get involved in Mike's latest case. With Christopher Ravenscroft. (Oracle) (s) (5795438)
 9.50 *Michael Winner's True Crimes: The Village Murders*
 • CHOICE: The cigar-chomping director of the *Death Wish* films hosts reconstructions of six real crimes, chosen to give a pat on the back to our much criticised boys in blue. In tonight's case, concerning the identical murders nearly three years apart of two teenage girls in Leicestershire, the police investigation is a model of fairness and persistence in which a man who made an unforced confession would actually set free. The detectives were crucially helped by the first in a series of cases of genetic fingerprinting, a technique developed only a few miles away at Leicester University. The story has been told on television before and this version does not pretend to offer any fresh angles. But with its brisk, clear narrative and economical script, it makes a watchable half-hour, even if some of the acting is starchy from the B movies. (Ceefax) (479457)



Pop music on an evolutionary scale: Tom Jones (10.20pm)

10.20 *Tom Jones: The Right Time*: The first of a six-part series in which Tom Jones traces the colourful and controversial evolution of pop music. Tonight's guests are EMF, Erasure and Shakespear's Sister (s) (308849)
 10.50 *ITN News with Sue Carpenter*. *Weather* (158815) 10.55 *LWT Weather* (771780)
 11.10 *1992 World Music Awards*: Cliff Richard, Olivia Newton-John, Kylie Minogue and Tony Hadley are among the presenters of this gala from Monte Carlo celebrating the work of best-selling musicians. Featuring Cathy Dennis, Enya, Right Said Fred and Simon (s) (616815)
 12.45 *Sam the Big E*: Magazine for young Europeans (7281991)
 1.10 *Music from the Bridge*: A profile of Erasure (649562)
 2.30 *Bhangra Beat Special*: The first of two programmes from the Apna Arts Festival in Nottingham, which took place last summer (88026)
 3.00 *New Music*: Pop videos (33571)
 4.30 *The Hit Man and Her*: Presented by Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan (s) (50526)
 5.30 *5.30 Morning News* (94129). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 *Heathcliff*: Feline adventures (r) (8866419) 6.25 *Eureka's Castle*: Musical fun for under-fives (r) (7532341) 6.55 *Once Upon a Time ... Skin* (r) (9515341) 7.25 *The People's Game*: Brazil's World Cup football record (r) (7829051) 7.55 *Trans World Sport* (1941341) 9.00 *News* (8396457) 9.15 *Racing: The Morning Line* (2010188)
 10.00 *Sign On: Newswatch*: Tessa Dugdale and Paul Redfern review events in May for deaf viewers. With signing and subtitles (86322)
 10.30 *Films: The Old Fashioned Way* (1934, b/w). W. C. Fields at his grouchy best as the pompous actor-manager of a group of travelling players. Directed by William Beaudine (8285877)
 11.45 *Bon Appetit*: Bulgarian animated parable about pigs (s) (687070)
 12.00 *Get Smart*: Espionage spoof starring Don Adams (45902)
 12.30 *Sumo*: How wrestlers move up the ranking list (s) (s) (64525)
 1.00 *Film: No Time for Tears* (1957). Sentimental drama starring Anna Neagle as a matron in a children's hospital. With George Baker and Flora Robson. Directed by Cyril Frankel (11436438)
 2.35 *Channel 4 Racing*: Brough Scott introduces the line-up from Epsom. (2.45) *Beamer Homes Acorn Stakes*; (3.15) *London Brick Ebbisham Stakes Handicap*; (4.05) *Gold Seal Oaks*; (4.40) *Crabtree Electrical Industries Stakes Handicap* (s) (6793902)
 5.05 *Brookside*: Omnibus edition. (Teletext) (s) (6793902)
 6.30 *Right to Reply*: Viewer Armette Paterson reports on television coverage of the developing world. (Teletext) (s) (631)
 7.00 *A Week in Politics*: Vincent Hanna and Andrew Rawnsley examine John Major's strategy for retrieving the Maastricht treaty in the wake of Denmark's referendum defeat (4273)
 8.00 *Daughters of Eve*
 • CHOICE: The debate on celibacy in the Roman Catholic priesthood is taken up in this frank and revealing film which features interviews with four women who have had affairs with clerics. According to Derek Warlock, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, cases of errant priests are not rare and handled with compassion. He is contradicted by both priests who have borne priestly children. Pope says the church protects its own and the priests often get a raw deal. One woman speaks of spending five years trying to get the father's name on the birth certificate. In a rare moment of humour, a priest who gave up his calling after four affairs uses a footballing metaphor: "I knew I was in the offside position and that if the ref saw me it would be a yellow card, perhaps a red one". (Teletext) (s) (6803)



Last chord: Jools Holland on a musical journey (9.00pm)

9.00 *Mister Roadrunner*

• CHOICE: In a companion programme to his *Walking to New Orleans*, Jools Holland sets off on another musical journey, this time to the states of Tennessee and Mississippi. His supposed purpose is a search for the lost chord and throughout his travels he is pursued by a devil and protected by an angel. But despite this pretentious framing the film is basically an excuse to feature a raft of singers who magically materialise on street corners or by the side of railroad tracks. The enterprise has such a contrived air that when Holland is stopped for speeding on his motorcycle, you suspect that the cops are actors planted for the purpose. But among the gags and the stunts the film offers a strong sense of landscape, from Nashville to Memphis, and performances from Charlie Rich, Billy Swan, Mica Paris and others (s) (4525)
 10.30 *Film: Personal Best* (1982). Thoughtful drama starring Mariel Hemingway as an Olympic athlete who's given a hard time by her coach and her lesbian lover. With Patrice Donnelly. Directed by Robert Towne. (Teletext) (28061964)
 12.55 *Sam the Twilight Zone*: He's Alive (b/w). Dennis Hopper plays an American inspired by the ghost of Hitler (6098736)
 1.50 *Film: Murders in the Zoo* (1933, b/w). Chiller starring Lionel Atwill as a zoo curator who employs his animals to murder his wife's lovers. Directed by Edward Sutherland (9302858). Ends at 2.55

ULSTER

1.15 *London*: except: 1.55pm-2.25 *Traditions* (68305693) 2.30 *Cars* (68305693) 2.35 *Starts from Scratch* (68305693) 2.45 *The Getaway* (Steve McQueen, Al MacGraw) (75205457) 2.55 *The Music* (75205457) 3.00 *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* (651945) 3.15 *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* (651945) 3.30 *Big E* (50262)
 2.00 *London*: except: 1.15pm-12.00 *Children* (3419) 1.55pm-2.25 *Starts from Scratch* (68305693) 2.30 *The Getaway* (Steve McQueen, Al MacGraw) (75205457) 2.45 *The Music* (75205457) 3.00 *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* (651945) 3.15 *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* (651945) 3.30 *Big E* (50262)
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